

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 779.—VOL. XXVIII.]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1856.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, FIVEPENCE.]

PEACE PUGNACITY.

THE "heralds" and apostles of peace keep up their customary clamour in favour of Russia, and against all who presume to differ from them in opinion, and especially against the press. They affect to believe that all human disputes can be settled by quiet arbitration;—that all the good qualities of humanity have been sufficiently developed to allow the Russian lion to lie placidly down by the side of the Turkish lamb, without the slightest prompting of the old carnivorous appetite; and that all the bad qualities have died out,—or would speedily expire, were it not for the instigation of devilishly-minded men who wield the pen in London, and set potentates by the ears, who would otherwise be harmless as doves. They assert that, were it not for this unhappy influence, the sword might be immediately transformed into the ploughshare and the spear into the pruning-hook. They write and speak as if they believed that the late Emperor Nicholas was an amiable, peaceable, and well-disposed man, driven into war when he did not intend it, by wicked Lord Aberdeen, and by still more wicked leading articles in the London newspapers. They tell us that they have faith in all that is good, humane, and charitable. One thing—and one only—they cannot believe, which is, that the London press has, can, or ever will have, any higher motive or object than that of making money

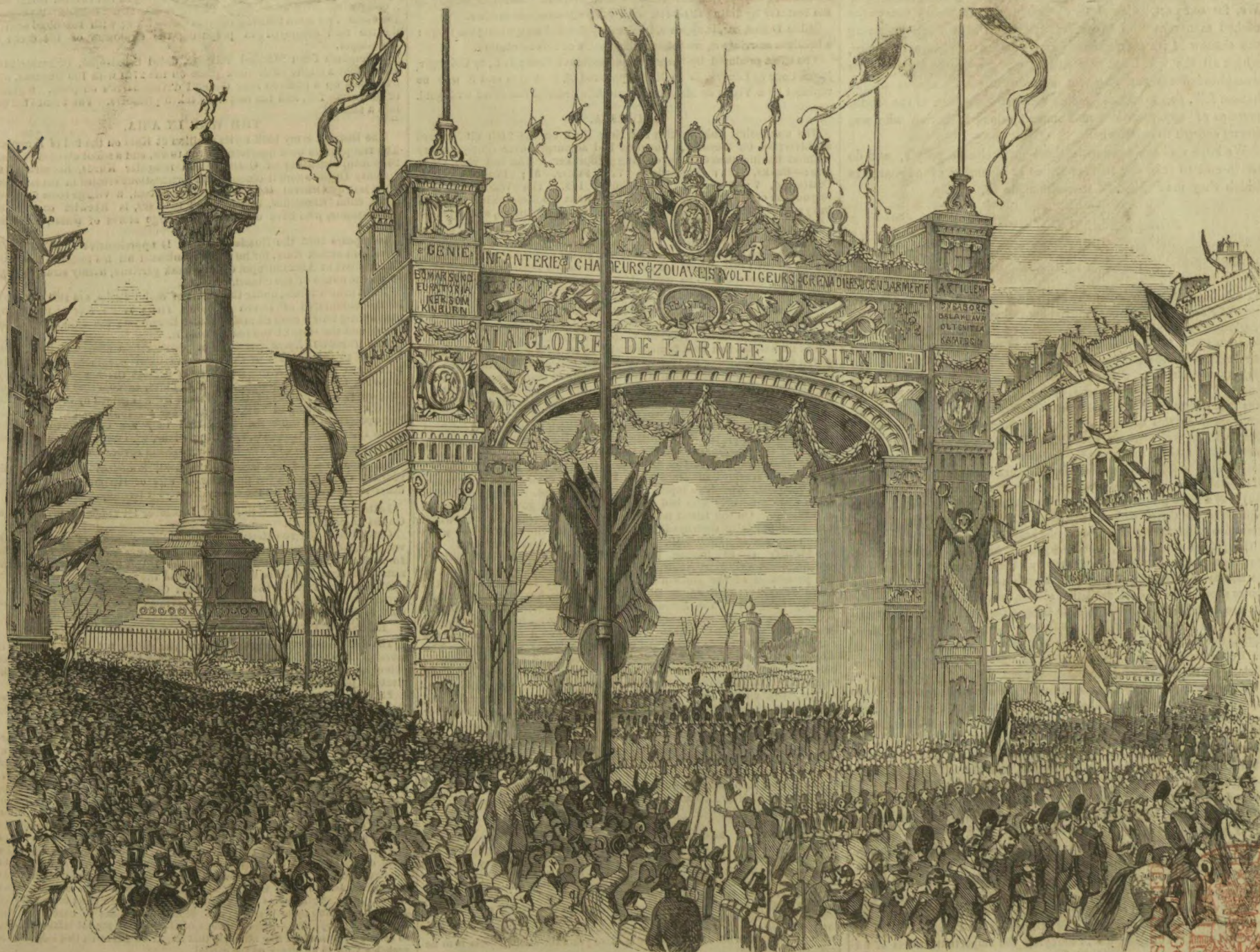
by pandering to the war spirit. It is solely in order to make newspapers sell that editors preach up bloody war, and urge the destruction of Sebastopol, Cronstadt, and St. Petersburg. These men are the only fiends in a world otherwise quite angelic. Nicholas and Alexander and their Generals meant no evil, and committed none. All the wrong, all the bloodshed, all the misery have been concocted in Printing-house-square, the Strand, and Fleet-street. It follows, however, if the newspapers are so very powerful and wicked, that the people of these islands must be very weak and foolish to be so misled by them. The good people in whom the Peace Society believes must be sought in Russia and not in Great Britain. If newspapers have the influence attributed to them, the British people must share the condemnation which the oracles of peace pronounce against its instructors and leaders. If the one be bad, the other—if that be possible—must be still worse.

"The press of this country," says the "*Herald of Peace*," in its number of the 1st of January, "is doing its utmost to defeat all hopes of peace, by representing the conditions submitted to Russia in every form they can conceive to be most insulting and offensive to her pride, and most likely to ensure their peremptory rejection." But is Russia to be blamed by the men of peace for this peremptory rejection? By no means. On the contrary, Russia is to be praised for proper spirit. "For our part," says

this mild teacher of the nations—this patriotic journal—which sympathises so cordially with the enemy of Great Britain, "if the *minimum* offered by the Western Powers be really a correct statement, we think its acceptance by Russia in the highest degree improbable. If the Black Sea can be made an exclusively commercial sea, from which all vessels of war can be shut out, it will be exceedingly difficult to show why the Mediterranean should not be so also." Amiable suggestion! intended, no doubt, for the benefit of the Emperor Alexander and his wily diplomatists. If the Black Sea, why not the Mediterranean? Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander; and we doubt not the Czar will thank his friends for the valuable hint, so full as it is of materials for dispute and controversy.

Foremost among the newspapers which the quarrelsome men of peace take it upon themselves to denounce are the *Times* and the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*. We must say, however, that we come in for a far larger share of their abuse than is bestowed upon our daily contemporary. Whether we are to take this as a compliment or not it is difficult to decide. It is not only Mr. Fry, the recognised representative of the Peace Society, who thinks it necessary to abuse this Journal in lectures and in writings, but other members of that well-meaning body, who vent their spleen against us. We quote one of the most recent specimens:—

"Whence comes then," says a circular specially sent to us, "the



ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH CRIMEAN TROOPS AT THE PLACE DE LA BASTILLE, PARIS.—(SEE PAGE 42.)

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hyena howl for more blood which we still too often hear? Is it possible there is an interest amongst us *adverse* to peace? Is it possible there can be a man so deaf to the claims of suffering humanity as to cry for more slaughter, more desolation? Alas! that it should be so; but so it is! The interest of the *Press* is against the interest of the *People*. * * * The ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS probably fattens more on the war than any other paper, and proportionably reckless are its endeavours to prolong the war. What to its proprietor and editor are slaughtered hosts? What are desolate homes? What are broken hearts? As far as they are concerned, "don't the war pay?"

We certainly admit that our circulation is large, and is increasing, and that we have supported the war; but we most emphatically contradict the assertion that one single article in this Journal has ever been written or published with any other than the most conscientious motive. The writer of the articles which so displease the Peace Society—but which we have reason to believe are approved of by the great bulk of our countrymen—never derived, nor expects to derive, one farthing of profit from the war—directly or indirectly. He writes from the dictates of his own reason and conscience, untrammelled by any trading considerations whatsoever, and would be ashamed of his right hand—if, for any bribe, or love of lucre, or worldly temptation, or reward in any form or shape—it could write a sentiment which his heart condemned or his conscientious and calm judgment disapproved. Can these amiable scandal-mongers imagine no honour but in Russia? Is it not as likely that a public writer in England should be pure-minded and incorruptible, as that the late Czar Nicholas should be unambitious? They believe in Imperial virtue, if it dwell in St. Petersburg and wield the sword; but they treat as incredible the private virtue of one of their own countrymen if he live in London and wield nothing more cutting than the pen. It is scarcely necessary, on behalf of the proprietors and conductors of this Journal, to give the lie to the slanderous malevolence of these misjudging bigots who "cry peace, peace, where there is no peace," and bespatter with their abuse the right-minded men who represent the public opinion of this great and free nation. But this far we may be permitted to state, that the war has *not* been a source of profit to this establishment; that, on the contrary, it has entailed very large expenses upon it; and that, though prosperous to a high degree, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS is prosperous, not on account of the war, but in spite of it. Two circumstances that are contemporaneous do not necessarily stand towards each other in the relation of cause and effect; or else we might say, the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS has prospered while abused by the Peace Society—*ergo*, the Peace Society's abuse is the cause of its prosperity. Our condition, thanks to the support of the public, is one of growth and development. This journal increased in circulation before the war, is increasing in circulation during the war, and we believe would continue to increase were peace proclaimed to-morrow.

The difference between ourselves and the public on the one hand, and the Peace Society on the other, we take to be simply this—that we all love peace; but do not seek it by the same means. We, for our part, prize peace so dearly that we would coerce the wicked monarchs who break it; but the Peace Society—loving the shadow of its own dogma, and not the substance of peace, which all the world hungers and thirsts for—encourages by its wrongheadedness and sheepish stupidity the wily wolves of the human fold, and would deliver us without resistance to the tender mercies of any merciless and unscrupulous barbarian who was strong enough to subdue us.

We hope we have done with these quarrelsome people, and do not intend to take any further notice of them, or of any attacks which they may think fit to make upon us.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

By a decision of the Empress, the large sum usually devoted to the purchase of New-Year's gifts to the Court has this season been set apart to be distributed to the poor, and to the wounded of the Eastern Army—an innovation which is likely to cause at least as much dissatisfaction on the one hand as gratification on the other. The position of her Imperial Majesty prevented her undertaking the fatigue of the reception of the *jour de l'an*, at which the absence of the Princes Jerome and Napoleon was much remarked. M. de Morny, President of the Corps Legislatif, pronounced on this occasion a short but most eloquent address. The reception was even more numerous and brilliantly attended than usual. On Monday, the 7th, took place the first fête of the season at the Tuilleries: it is to be followed by three others, the next to be given on the 12th. Of these two are to be grand balls, the other (as well as the one of Monday) is of a more private character. It is said that later in the season it is probable the Court will adjourn to St. Cloud, and even that the last receptions of the winter will probably be held there.

The private fêtes, which, up to the present, have been extremely few, are about to commence with great activity; but, as usual, much more in the houses of foreigners than of the French society itself. Among the houses about to be opened for balls, soirées, private theatricals, concerts, &c., are the hotels of the Marquise de Boisy (late Comtesse Guiccioli), the Comtesse de Castellane, Mmes. Bélistent, Béhagne, Ridgway, Riarlo, Sforza, Suchet, the Prince Stourdza, the Comte Pozzo di Borgo, &c. At the Hôtel Castellane the theatre is to be opened by a piece written specially for the occasion by a professional hand, but played by amateurs.

On the last day of the year took place the grand annual banquet of the Collège Henri IV., at which upwards of a hundred and twenty guests were assembled. The fête was this year presided over by M. Hausmann, Préfet of the Seine; supported by the late President, M. de Lesseps, M. Etia de Beaumont, M. Achille Juvenal, &c. At dessert, toasts were drunk to the memories of MM. Cassimir de Lavigne, the Maréchal St. Arnaud, and M. Romieu, formerly scholars of the college.

It is decided that the uniform of the Cent-Gardes is to remain unaltered, and the additions to be made to this fine body are to be carried out as rapidly as possible.

The enormous enterprises of the establishment of the new Boulevards of Sebastopol and de l'Impératrice are about, ere long, to be commenced. The Boulevard de Sebastopol begins nearly opposite the fine old tower of St. Jacques-la-Boucherie, lately restored in the improvements in and about the new Rue de Rivoli, and extends to the Boulevard de Strasbourg. The Boulevard de l'Impératrice is to commence at the Tuilleries; and, destroying the important streets of de Grammont and Ste. Anne, besides numerous more insignificant ones, opens on the present Boulevards. These projects, magnificent as they are, will

have the very serious, and at present almost alarming, consequence of entailing an enormous expense on the municipal budget, more especially as the jury appointed to judge the sums to be allotted to the expropriated proprietors shows itself extremely liberal to the latter, and completely upsets the calculations of the city. In one instance alone a proprietor claiming 390,000 francs was, by the jury, accorded the sum against the city, which offered 180,000. The embarrassment of the municipality is the greater that the Emperor insists on the execution of the two great thoroughfares being carried out together and at once.

It is said that certain remarks made on the occasion of the entrance of the troops, respecting the costume of the statue of Napoleon on the Column of the Place Vendôme, have led to an idea of substituting in its place an effigy of the late Emperor, attired in a somewhat more classical and artistic style.

Never was the story of the mountain and the mouse more completely realised than in the production of M. Véron's "Cinq cent mille livres de rentes." After the flourish of trumpets which announced the appearance of this gastronomic fiction appears a volume weak in construction, uninteresting in plot, flat, stale, and unprofitable in every part. What is to be said of a book whose sole result (as yet happily) on the public mind has been to induce a party of gourmands, headed by a Senator, to have carried into execution the bill of fare of a dinner described in this "delectable treatise," whereas each member consumed a hundred francs' worth, not including wine? We are happy to see that in general the Parisian press has fallen with due severity on this claptrap production of an overheated vanity, and we trust the *Bourgeois de Paris* may be induced to profit by the lesson he has received.

The revived question of "Where is Cruvelli?" has been once more solved by the reappearance of the fantastic Diva in Paris. She is, it is said, at last married to the faithful and patient Baron who has for so long borne with such exemplary resignation the freaks and flights of the capricious damsel. We wish him much joy of his triumph; and we no less sincerely hope that her conjugal felicity will induce the newly-made Baronne to let the public have a little respite from her absurdities. At the Grand Opera her place is most satisfactorily filled up by Mme. Tedesco, who was *débütée* with Roger in the "Prophète."

A particular notice is required for the great theatrical event of the day, we may almost say of the age—namely, the appearance of Alexandre Dumas' "Orestes," at the Porte St. Martin. In the execution of the work, which is in heroic verse, the author has closely followed Eschylus. The return of Agamemnon, the terrors and conspiracies of Clytemnestra and Egisthus, the prophecies of Cassandra, the murder of the King, the vengeance of Orestes (nearly the whole of whose career is displayed), the death of Clytemnestra, &c.—all are brought into the piece, and the usual immense resources for which this theatre is so remarkable in the way of scenic effect are called into play to give the work with becoming splendour. The success of so bold and novel an attempt as introducing a Greek tragedy before a Parisian public, crammed with vaudeville, melodrama, modern comedy, and broad farce, appeared most doubtful, yet the result seems on the whole satisfactory. It yet, however, remains to be seen whether it is genuine taste or mere curiosity that at present fills the house. The different actors perform more than creditably. Mme. Lucie Mavora (*Clytemnestra*) makes some very fine points; but perhaps the female part best performed is that of *Cassandra*, by Mme. Laurent. The verse, as far as French verse can be brought to imitate the Greek, is deserving of much praise: if anything, it may be accused of being a little too polished and smoothed in the finishing.

The Gymnase has a pretty little piece, "Je Dine chez ma Mère," which introduces the celebrated actress, and yet more celebrated sayer of *bon mots*, Sophie Arnould, deserted on the day of family fêtes *par excellence*—New-Year's day—by all her brilliant admirers, and contenting herself as she best may by dining *à la-tête* with the portrait of her mother.

Mlle. Denain has, it appears, irrevocably decided on quitting the stage: a brilliant marriage is, we believe, the motive of this resolution.

The effect produced by the equestrian statue of François I., by Clésinger, in the Cour de Louvre, is so little approved of, that it is said it will be replaced by a Venus de Milo, on a malachite pedestal decorated with gold.

AMERICA.

The steam-ship *Baltic*, which left New York on the 26th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday. Congress had adjourned over Christmas-day without having succeeded in electing a Speaker. The last vote taken was:—Banks, 101; Richardson, 72; Fuller, 31; Pennington, 4; Scattering, 7: Necessary to a choice, 108. The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* states that the Message had been put in type under the President's eye in the Executive mansion, and says:—

Abuse of confidence on former occasions is assigned as the reason for this extraordinary precaution now. This step, however, is a new and a remarkable innovation upon all past precedent, and, if it proves nothing else, it establishes beyond all cavil that at least one person in the nation regards the Message as of sufficient importance to be watched as if it contained the revelations of another Joe Smith.

The Transit Company's steamer *Northern Light* had been seized by the United States' Government, when about to sail, on suspicion of containing a large number of recruits, &c., for Colonel Walker.

The authorities had been furnished with irrefutable evidence of a widespread movement being on foot to send men and arms to Nicaragua for the purpose of organising an army in that State to descend upon Cuba and St. Domingo, and wrest them from their present possessors. Colonel French, the Nicaraguan Minister, had presented his credentials at Washington, but Marcy refused to recognise them.

It is stated that Marcy's demand upon the British Government required, among other things, the recall of Mr. Crampton, or some other public act of equally signal satisfaction to the United States.

The Hudson's Bay Arctic expedition in search of Franklin had returned, after reaching the place where Franklin's crews were reported to have perished. Dr. Rae's report was fully confirmed. They met Esquimaux in that vicinity who had seen the whites, and gave much valuable information. On the island were discovered the remains of a boat, which had been partially destroyed by the natives for the sake of the wood and the metal fastenings, although there was sufficient left to identify it as having belonged to the Franklin expedition; one fragment of wood (now, as well as some other small relics, in the possession of the Hudson's Bay Company at Lachine) having the name *Terror* branded on it, while another piece has the name of Mr. Stanley (surgeon of the *Erebus*) cut upon it, this latter being part of a snow-shoe, evidently of English manufacture, being made of oak, a species of wood no man accustomed to use snow-shoes would ever select for the purpose. No papers or books, and no human remains, were found. The Esquimaux were very friendly, and freely displayed all their treasures obtained from the boat, or found near it, and these consisted principally of the oars, used by them as tent-poles, the boat-kettles, the empty preserved-meat cases, &c., but no papers; and the natives stated, with every evidence of sincerity, that none had ever been seen or found; everything portable was secured and brought back. It would be useless to recount them all; but we may mention bar-iron, rope with the Government mark on it, oars branded with the broad arrow, pieces of bunting (remains of a flag), a letter-holder, a step of a mast, &c.; all clearly European, and all Government supplies.

The British ship *Resolute*, abandoned in the Arctic ice, had been brought into the port of New London, with armament stores, &c., on board.

ABOLITION OF THE ROBOT IN POLAND.—The Cracow paper *Czas* mentions that the Russian Government has ordered the abolition of the robot (vilein socage) in Poland, by commutation into a yearly money payment. For some years past the instances in which individual private proprietors have made this arrangement with their peasantry have been increasing, and the Government had also set a similar example on the Crown domains, so that as many as a fourth part of the whole peasant population had already entered upon their new condition. The commutation is now to take place all over the kingdom. The lists of the peasantry are being sent in, commissioners for superintending the business are appointed, and in three years the whole process is to be completed.

The total amount received by the French Minister of War for the Crimean Fund is 925,645*fr.* 28*c.*

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

(From our Artist and Special Correspondent.)

CAMP, SEBASTOPOL, Dec. 24, 1855.

YESTERDAY the French engineers successfully exploded the chambers of mines formed under one of the docks of Sebastopol. The explosion made but little noise, and was only marked by a large column of smoke visible at the considerable distance at which spectators were forced to retire. The sides and bottom of the dock were completely broken up the whole mass upheaving itself and forming a heap of ruins where the dock had been. The mines had been made below the stonework at the bottom of the structure, and completely destroyed it; but the ruin would have been more effectual had the chambers been carried lower, so as to effect the destruction, not only of the stonework, but of the piles on which it rested. Our engineers have been impeded mainly by the desire to effect the complete destruction of every part of the docks—the piles as well as piers and groundwork. Their shafts have been sunk much lower than the French, and have, in consequence, been subject to flooding. It is hoped that on Saturday, when the French intend to explode another of their mines, the English will also be ready, and then the destruction of Sebastopol docks will be complete.

CAMP, SECOND DIVISION, December 26.

For the second time since the invasion of the Crimea, Christmas has come and gone. How different the last was from its predecessor, the few who have weathered the vicissitudes of two campaigns can alone relate. It is sufficient almost to say that the enjoyments of 1855 have compensated the sufferings of 1854; for, if the former is marked by any peculiar feature, it is that comfort and substantial enjoyment are superabundant, and what there is of overflow in cheer must be taken as making up the deficiency of last year, during the merry time of Christmas. Unattended, uncared for, and weary, the soldiers on the 25th of December, 1854, held the trenches before Sebastopol covered with mud, devoid of comforts, unhoused, ill-fed, and ill-clothed. Bad roads had caused short commons. Death, disease, and discontent, were the grim features of the day: the enemy was before us, and mismanagement behind. We have since driven away the first, and, in a great measure, dethroned the second; so that, although our last Christmas lacked much in outward show, its substance was real and tangible. In some favoured spot last year small parties may have gathered with the stern determination of being comfortable at all hazards. What is Christmas, however, without its turkey and roast beef? Of these neither was to be had. A goose may, here and there, have graced the board, if a bird resembling in aspect the gull can be supposed to pass for such. But Christmas dinners were a melancholy failure.

December 29, 1855.

The fall of Kars, which has been placed beyond question, has, it appears, singularly complicated the position of the Turks in Asia. Omer Pacha sent urgent messages by one of our ships for assistance against the threatening attacks of the Russian army released from the blockade of Kars. We now hear it rumoured that the Turkish Generalissimo has been completely surrounded and forced to lay down his arms. We all sincerely trust that this will turn out untrue.

A despatch from General Codrington, dated Dec. 27, gives some facts relating to the condition of the Army in contradiction to the reported drunkenness of the troops. He affirms that the number of crimes of drunkenness, in September, October, and November, did not exceed one man per hundred in two days. Even were they to treble the numbers taken from official returns, he thinks the Army in the Crimea would bear a comparison with many towns and villages in Great Britain. As regards the enemy, we learn that the Russians were firing with redoubled activity on the men employed in preparing the explosion of the docks at Sebastopol.

A despatch from Marshal Pelissier, dated Sebastopol, December 28th, states that a slight affair took place on the 27th with 100 Russians, who had taken up a position near General d'Autemarre's outposts. Eighteen of the enemy fell, and the rest were taken prisoners. The French did not lose a man.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

The Russian army took up its position at Kars on the 3rd of December. The troops have been quartered in the town, and a small division of about 2000 men, consisting of Cossacks and irregular Kurds, has been left at Soltanly Dagh, where it occupies the fortifications erected in the month of June last by General Mouravieff. Yeni Keni, a village some fifty-four miles from Erzeroum, on the road to Kars, is likewise occupied by the Russians, who have collected there large stores of wheat, flour, and barley.

It appears that the Russian General is apprehensive of Selim Pacha coming to attack Kars, for he has concentrated all his forces at that spot, and has left at Alexandropol only a weak garrison, hardly strong enough to do the duties of the citadel.

The Turkish forces, under the orders of Selim Pacha, are still encamped in the mountains of Deyeh Boynou. There is no fear of the enemy attempting now a *coup de main* against Erzeroum; the exhaustion of his troops and the state of the roads forbid it.

The *Invalide Russe* publishes a proclamation addressed by Prince Bebutoff to the noblesse of the Transcaucasian provinces, in which he tells them that the Allies have "risen against the Emperor, the only orthodox Czar in the world, as he styles him, because they are envious of his power, and jealous of the influence he has gained by demanding for the Christians living in Turkey relief from grievous wrongs. After calling upon them to know the enemy that they are the children of those noble Imperials, Gouliens, and Mingrelians, who were never vanquished, the Prince concludes by the following solemn invocation:—

Salvation to you, in the name of the Lord, illustrious princes and noble gentlemen; raise above you the victorious sign of His cross, and, marching under its protection, drive the enemy from your territory.

Letters from General Williams of December 1st announce his arrival at Gumri in good health.

Omer Pacha had re-entered Batoum, and the question of replacing him was discussed at Constantinople, but that measure was deemed impossible. In a council held on the 26th ult. the Divan decided that a new and numerous army should be sent into Asia in the spring.

At the departure of the courier from Constantinople seventy Turkish vessels were lying there, laden with munitions of war, ready for transport to Soukoum Kaleh.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.

The most energetic preparations for the spring are going forward in Russia. The Grand Council of War assembled at St. Petersburg has been principally occupied with matters relating to the fortification of the strategic points of the empire.

The following letter from St. Petersburg, of December the 30th, shows that the Emperor Alexander has no great reliance on the result of the peace proposals:—

The momentous deliberations which have been carried on here for the purpose of settling the plan of the future campaign may be looked on now as closed. It is a presumption for which, however, I have very excellent grounds, that it is intended, in case another campaign should be opened there, to give up the Crimea entirely, and concentrate the entire power or resistance on other points; for it is as little overlooked here as probably in the rest of Europe that the plans of the Allies for next spring point to a removal of the theatre of war. We believe even that, quite *sub rosa*, the removal of the theatre of war is being already prepared for, and that a portion of the troops in the Crimea have already received orders to retire northwards upon the great central army, while, at the same time, another portion is destined to reinforce the troops in the Caucasus. According to all that I can hear, it seems also to be intended, with the greatest energy, and even in the course of this winter, to fortify, as far as it is possible, the entire north coast of the Bay of Finland, from Abo up to Wyborg; and behind these lines to concentrate the élite of the troops, viz.—three divisions of Guards and the 1st infantry corps, so as to be prepared for any attempts that might be made on this side with a probable view to an attack on the capital.

Meanwhile the active manner in which Sweden is openly preparing for war is exciting great alarm among the German partisans of Russia.

Norway has been called on by the Swedish War Department to organise her forces. The Swedish journals are almost unanimous in their praises of the treaty with the Western Powers. Even the semi-official paper appeals to it as a reply to the reproach that Sweden is under the control of Russia.

TURKISH WAR FINANCE.

The *Moniteur* of Tuesday last publishes an interesting statement of the financial condition of the Turkish empire. From this it appears that the Turkish Army amount to 103,066 men. The expenses of the war for 28 months (from May 27, 1853, to Sept. 27, 1855) amount to £7,400,000—a sum which includes one of £370,000, value of ammunition and war stores furnished to the Allies. The amount required by the War Department for the next year is £4,345,000; and to meet immediate wants an application is made to the Loan Commission for an instalment of £628,000.

THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSITIONS FOR PEACE.

The first period allowed to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg for deliberation on the Austrian Propositions has been extended from the 5th, as first fixed, to the 8th of January. This arises from Count Esterhazy not having arrived at St. Petersburg as early as was intended. The second period is enlarged, in like proportion, from the 8th to the 18th. As on former occasions of a similar kind, Russia wishes to gain all the time possible.

The latest accounts from Berlin say that Austria has fully determined to induce the Frankfurt Diet to make some manifestation on the Eastern question. Count O'Donnell, the Emperor's Aide-de-Camp, is commissioned to visit various of the German Courts to feel the way for this object.

A private letter from Vienna states positively that the acceptance or rejection by Russia of the Austrian propositions depends a great deal, if not entirely, on Prussia. This coincides with the statement that the instructions of the Prussian Minister at St. Petersburg were to give the most conciliatory counsels to M. de Nesselrode; and it is moreover affirmed that the King of Prussia has addressed an autograph letter very lately to the Emperor Alexander to the same effect.

The *Independence Belge* gives the following as the text of the propositions submitted to Russia by Count Esterhazy:—

I. DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Complete abolition of the Russian protectorate. The Danubian Principalities shall receive an organisation conformable to their wishes, to their interests; and this new organisation, respecting which the population itself will be consulted, shall be recognised by the contracting Powers and sanctioned by the Sultan as emanating from his sovereign initiative. No State shall be able, under any pretext whatever, under any form of protectorate, to interfere in the question of the internal administration of the Principalities; they shall adopt a definitive permanent system demanded by their geographical position, and no impediment can be made to their fortifying, in the interest of their safety, in such manner as they may deem advisable, their territory against foreign aggression.

In exchange for the strong places and territories occupied by the Allied armies, Russia consents to a ratification of her frontier with Turkey in Europe. It would commence in the vicinity of Chotym, follow the line of the mountains, which extend in a south-easterly direction, and terminate at Lake Sasek. The line (trace) shall be definitively regulated by the general treaty, and the conceded territory would return to the Principalities and to the suzerainty of the Porte.

II. DANUBE.

The freedom of the Danube and of its mouths shall be efficaciously assured by European institutions, in which the contracting Powers shall be equally represented, except the particular positions of the lords of the soil on the banks (*des riverains*), which shall be regulated upon the principles established by the Act of the Congress of Vienna as regards the navigation of rivers. Each of the contracting Powers shall have the right to keep one or two small vessels stationed at the mouth of the river destined to assure the execution of the regulations relative to the freedom of the Danube.

III. NEUTRALISATION OF THE BLACK SEA.

This sea shall be open to merchant vessels—closed to war navies (*marines militaires*). Consequently, no naval military arsenals shall be created or maintained there. The protection of the commercial and maritime interests of all nations shall be assured in the respective ports of the Black Sea by the establishment of institutions conformable to international law, and to the customs sanctioned in such matters. The two Powers which hold the coast engage themselves to maintain only the number of light vessels of a fixed force, necessary for their coast service. This convention, concluded separately between these two Powers, shall form part as an annex of the general treaty after receiving the approval of the contracting parties. This separate convention cannot be annulled or modified without the consent of the signatories of the general treaty. The closing of the Straits will admit the exception applicable to the stationary vessels mentioned in the preceding article.

IV. CHRISTIAN SUBJECTS OF THE PORTE.

The immunities of the Rayah subjects of the Porte shall be religiously preserved, without infringement on the independence and dignity of the Sultan crown. As deliberations are taking place between Austria, France, Great Britain, and the Sublime Porte to assure to the Christian subjects of the Sultan their religious and political rights, Russia shall be invited, when peace is made, to associate herself thereto.

V.

The belligerent Powers reserve to themselves the right which appertains to them of producing in a European interest special conditions over and above the four guarantees.

THE LAST OF A REDAN HERO.

(From a Crimean Correspondent.)

WE left Balaklava late in December with a shipload of sick and wounded—some for Scutari, some for other hospitals on the coast, a few officers for Malta, and the rest for England. It was fine weather when we left Balaklava Bay, but at this season of the year the Euxine is seldom quiet for many hours together, and before we had got half way across a storm was raging furiously. The wind blew uncertainly at every point of the compass, the black waves upheaving their vastness around us as if they would every moment engulf our ship with her cargo of human life, and the white surf swept our decks from bows to stern. I was standing at the quarter-deck speaking with the Captain, when a pale-faced boy with the badge of the 97th in his cap approached us, making with one hand a military salute, whilst with the other he held on hard to save himself being washed overboard. "Captain," said he, "will you soon be in smooth water? There's a poor corporal of ours won't last long anyhow this way." The Captain shook his head. "My lad," said he, "the ship scarce makes any way in this head sea; there'll be no smooth water for the next twenty-four hours." "Then God's mercy be with him," said the boy, and he turned away. The Captain called after him—"Cheerily, cheerily, my lad! isn't it all taut and dry below? and the doctor's with your mate; all the ship's 'comforts' are at his service: does he want anything?" "Faith, an' it's not long he'll want anything," was the reply. "He won't live below at all! He never could stand the *say* by no means, even when he was the man he used to be: he says now, 'an' it's all his cry, 'give me the fresh air and I'll die contented!'" "The man says truth," said the Doctor, who came up at that moment; "we must have the poor fellow on deck; it's his only chance: he'll die below." "Then bring him on the quarter-deck," said the Captain; and in a few minutes, under one of the quarter-deck boats, a bed, as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, was provided. I assisted in his removal, and when he was lying on his bed, with the winds shrieking around him and the salt sea foam splashing on his face, he revived for a time, and said he felt better, and hoped he should still weather the storm. I ascertained from his comrade that he had been one of the first to enter the Redan on the memorable 8th of September; that he was amongst the number who for a brief period occupied unmolessted those enormous works, hoping momentarily that a rush of reinforcements would come to their aid—hoping, until thousands of Russians, yelling like demons, crowding in from the Malakoff and the barracks below, compelled the devoted few to retreat. In retreating towards the advanced trench over the terrible glacis he was wounded in several places. He had partially recovered from his wounds when dysentery seized him, and now on the quarter-deck of the ship he was dying. His face and lips were pale as wax, his eyes sunken in their blackened sockets, his features sharp and bedewed with the damps of death. A few sick men of the 97th, and several invalids belonging to other regiments, stood near him. "God bless you, my boys!" said he, "and the old 97th! It's no use—I'll never, I'll never see home!" and at the last word his chin fell upon his breast. They thought he was gone, and covered his face; but he moved his head again, and attempted to raise his hand, now cold as ice. The lad before mentioned, a six months' recruit, grasped the fingers so feebly outstretched, and bent over him, the tears streaming down his cheeks and mingling with the spray of the sea which flew around this strange bed of death. "Mike!" said the corporal with convulsive energy, half raising himself, "Mike! They say the 97th ran back! Will any man say I didn't do my duty? God bless the Queen! and bless Ould Ireland, too!" He fell back, and never spoke again.

In a few hours we were off Scutari, and blew off steam whilst the ship's boat went ashore. One of the hatchways was lowered into the jolly-boat, and on this rude bier rested a figure—the unmistakable outline of death—wrapped in a union-jack. The sea was still running high. "Turn the hatchway round," cried the Captain, "or you'll have him overboard." The boy in the boat clasped the something in the union-jack with one arm, and with the other turned the hatchway round. He lifted him tenderly. So light was his frame now (three months ago a

Redan hero!) that the cabin-boy of fifteen years raised him and laid him down as if he had been a child. The boat put off towards the shore in a heavy surf, and it appeared every moment as if she would be swamped. I thought I had seen death in so many forms that nothing would ever touch me again; but the misery and grief of the young recruit, the faithful comrade, was a sight no mortal nerve could endure without the relief of tears. He stood leaning over the ship's ladder, his eager glance strained after the receding boat as she encountered each threatening wave, weeping all the time as if he were beside a household grave at home, hearing the dull earth fall upon the coffin.

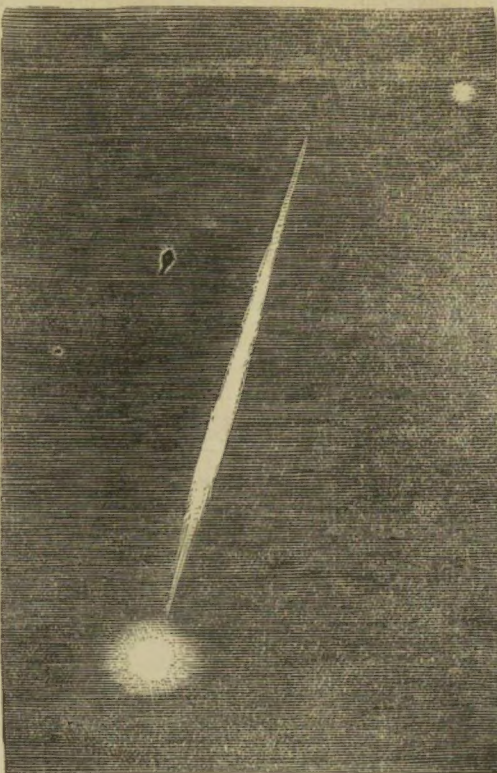
W. C.

SPLENDID METEOR.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Tunbridge Wells, Jan. 7, 1856.

THIS afternoon, about 47 minutes past four p.m., sitting opposite a window looking S.W., I was struck by the appearance of a most brilliant meteor descending with considerable rapidity at a slight angle towards the south. It appeared



First Appearance—47 minutes past 4 p.m.

slightly to the south of the planet Jupiter, which was shining brightly in a cloudless sky, and S.S.E. to myself. The appearance was that of an intense oxy-hydrogen light, the circumference showing a bright blue, going off into a dull misty red, as far as I could observe it.



50 minutes past 4 p.m.

times. It lasted just about a quarter of an hour; and, in length, took about



3 minutes past 6 p.m.

two-thirds of the distance between Jupiter and the horizon (apparently). Soon after six it vanished, and clouds came over. The greater motion of the middle part may have been caused by the greater bulk there affording the wind more surface for acting.

The movement of the "train" will at once suggest the atmospheric nature of the phenomenon. I can hazard no opinion as to the distance it was from here, having no instruments to examine it with, except a small telescope.

J. T.

. We have also to thank several other Correspondents for their accounts and sketches of this remarkable meteor. Mr. W. Noble, of Forest Lodge, Maresfield, Sussex, compares its appearance to "an enormous comet," changing to that of the "golden rain" of a rocket; and next to an extraordinarily brilliant cloud—"its angular form in many parts strikingly suggesting its electrical origin. Examined through an excellent telescope of 14 inch aperture, it afforded the idea of a flocculent and somewhat arborescent mass—a sort of *fringing* being very apparent. As we regarded it, it very slowly changed its form, bending gradually into the form of the letter W. It remained visible for about fifteen minutes, gradually fading. It was due S.W., nearly under the great square of Pegasus (the star, however, being invisible at the time from the strong twilight), and Jupiter was shining brilliantly to the W. by N. of it. The wind at the time was E. by N. Barometer 28.888 inches. Attached thermometer 48°5—External thermometer perhaps a degree lower.

W. F., Brighton; T. W. W., Brighton; G. D., Stoermouth, Kent; J. Mickleburgh, Thanet House, Margate; C. M. Dobell, Cheltenham; J. L., Prince's-crescent, Margate; J. C., St. Leonards-on-Sea; John Smith, Cowes; C. G., Wareham, Dorset; G. M. C., Wilmington, Sussex; Index, Midhurst, Sussex; W. C. B., Clifton—next week.

H. G. B., Chudleigh, describes it as resembling a torn and blazing flag, terminating upwards in a slender ray-like shaft.

Mr. J. M. J. Broadwood, Buchan-hill, near Crawley, Sussex, states the appearance to have been that of a large ball of fire, and its disappearance that of a luminous cloud.

. Our Correspondent's weekly Meteorological Report had not been received at the hour of our going to press.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

PRESENT AND FUTURE STRENGTH OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.—The total strength of the British land forces in the vicinity of Sebastopol, at the present moment, is as nearly as possible 53,000 men of all ranks and arms of the service. At Kerch there is a battalion numbering about 700, and on the Bosphorus thirteen regiments of cavalry, whose aggregate strength is rather over 4000; making a total, exclusive of 2400 in hospital at Scutari and Ronkiol, of, in round numbers, 55,000 purely English forces. Between this time and the first week in March nearly the whole of the troops now composing the reserve at Malta will probably be forwarded to the Crimea, their place being supplied by reinforcements from home, of which something like 4000 will embark in the course of the next week or two. About ten infantry regiments from home, Malta, and Gibraltar, will, in all likelihood, be sent up to the Black Sea, about the same time; thus adding more than 15,000 men to the English army now in the field, and bringing its numbers up to about 73,000 in all. The Turkish Contingent, the head-quarters of which is now at Kerch, may be considered as amounting to 20,000. Portions of the British Swiss and British German Legions are already at Scutari, one or two more regiments are on their way, and the total number of these corps in two months may be safely anticipated as 7000 men. The British Italian Legion appears likely to be most successful, but it is not probable that sufficient progress will be made in its organisation to allow of its taking the field early in the campaign. Summing up the figures just stated, the whole of the British forces will probably be found to amount to 100,000 men, of whom 85,000 will be effective combatants. Some important arrangements as to the redistribution of the forces will be made on the arrival of Sir Colin Campbell, who now holds the local rank of General. All officers on leave must be present with their regiments on the 1st of March, and within a very few days of that date the public may expect to see an army ready to take the field wherever it may be ordered, which, in point of numbers, arrangement, and condition, we shall be justified in regarding with confidence and pride.—*Globe*.

ORDERS have been received at the several artillery stations in Ireland to send a certain number each of picked men forthwith to Woolwich, thence to proceed to the Crimea.

THE *Perseverance* naval steam-transport, embarked at Portsmouth, on Saturday last, detachments of the 19th, 23rd, 31st, 35th, 44th, and 46th Regiments, and 1st and 2nd battalions of the Rifle Brigade, with which she left on Monday for the Crimea.

ORDERS have been received at Portsmouth that, on the arrival of the *Rodney*, 92, sailing-ship, at that port from the Mediterranean she is to be converted with all dispatch into a shot and dépot ship for the Baltic fleet. Her crew will be paid down and granted leave; her spars are to be reduced, with the exception of her lower masts and lower yards, which will remain the same; the rest of her spars will be those of a second-class frigate; the complement of her crew will be reduced from 850 to 650. The *London*, sister ship, is also to undergo a similar conversion, for the same service, on her arrival at Devonport.

HER Majesty's steam-sloop *Driver*, which arrived at Woolwich on Saturday morning last, and went down the river for the examination of her engines, previous (as it was supposed) to her being taken into basin for repairs, has been filled up with coal, and left Woolwich again at about eleven o'clock on Sunday for immediate service. In consequence of these sudden and unexpected orders a number of the factory workmen were set to work to repair the most defective part of her engines, and remained at work the whole of Saturday night and all day on Sunday until the vessel left.

THE authorities of the Horse Guards have forwarded an order to the Commandant of Chatham garrison to hold in readiness the men of the various depôts in the provisional battalion on the Indian establishment who have gone through a course of instruction at the school of musketry at Hythe, and have qualified themselves for instructors in the use of the Enfield rifle, to embark for the several presidencies in India, to enable the Commander of the Forces in that country to carry out the orders on this head. The following are the depôts from which instructors will be selected:—For the Bengal station: the 10th, 32nd, 35th, 6th, and 95th Regiments—one from each dépot. For Bombay: the 64th, 78th, 83rd, 9th, and 80th Regiments—one man from the first three and two from the latter. For Madras: the 74th and 84th Regiments—four instructors from the former and one from the latter.

THEIR Serene Highnesses Prince Edward and Prince Gustavus of Saxe-Weimar, attended by Colonel Hamilton, Grenadier Guards, and two subaltern officers, paid a visit to Woolwich Arsenal on Tuesday morning, where they were officially received by Colonel Wilmot, Colonel Tulloh, Captain Boxer, and Captain Orr, representing the departmental government of the Arsenal. The visitors were conducted in the usual manner through the foundries, various workshops, and laboratories, and repeatedly expressed their gratification as they were shown the working of the huge and powerful machinery. Prince Edward had desired that the ordinary labour might not be disturbed, so that every department was in full work when they arrived. Before leaving the Arsenal the Princes expressed their conviction that this important establishment is unrivalled in Europe.

A CONTRACT has been entered into with Government by Messrs. Napier, of Glasgow, for the construction of the first of the great gun-batteries. It is intended to be of 3000 tons, and it is to be delivered on the Thames on the 15th of April next, under penalty of £1000 per diem.

So great is the facility in reuniting the disjointed timbers composing the experimental mortar-raft at Woolwich, that in three hours after receiving the pontoon cylinders, which have been repaired and strengthened, the raft was again in service order. This is an important item in this newly-invented species of raft, showing the ready manner in which it may be transferred to any destination.

THERE are forty vessels in Portsmouth being equipped for active service. So many ships and fresh arrivals nearly every day give ample employment to every department in the port. The *Clarence*-yard, Gosport, is full of stores in readiness for shipment. The *Flying Fish*, 6, arrived at Portsmouth, on Monday, from Pembroke, to join the fleet flying out.

ORDERS have been issued to hold in readiness for embarkation 800 disciplined men of the household infantry—viz., 300 for the 3rd battalion of the Grenadiers, 250 for the 1st battalion of the Coldstreams, and 250 for the 3rd battalion of the Scots Fusilier Guards. These draughts will proceed by the first opportunity to join the reserve at Malta, whence a similar number will be sent to join the service companies in the Crimea.

ON Monday morning four non-commissioned officers and about fifty gunners and drivers of the Royal Artillery left Woolwich for Ireland, to fill up vacancies. These men are to form a dépot at Dublin, for the purpose of training horses and getting themselves instructed in field-battery exercises. Lieutenants H. W. Briscoe and E. J. Ward, whose companies are in the Crimea, have also left Woolwich to join this dépot at Dublin, and in the spring will proceed along with these non-commissioned officers and men to join their respective companies in the East.

A NUMBER of schooners having arrived off Woolwich Arsenal from Hull are discharging their cargoes of mixed shot and shell from the contractor's foundry at Lowmoor. Piles of shot and shell of every description now encumber all available space along the wharfs. The monster bombs form a prominent feature there.



THE EMPEROR MEETING THE CRIMEAN TROOPS ON THE PLACE DE LA BASTILLE, PARIS.—(SEE PAGE 42)



THE CHASSEURS DE VINCENNES.—(SEE PAGE 42.)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Jan. 13.—1st Sunday after Epiphany.
 MONDAY, 14.—Plough Monday. Oxford Term begins.
 TUESDAY, 15.—Queen Elizabeth crowned, 1559.
 WEDNESDAY, 16.—Gibbon died, 1794. Battle of Corunna, 1809.
 THURSDAY, 17.—Dr. Franklin born, 1706.
 FRIDAY, 18.—Old Twelfth-day.
 SATURDAY, 19.—Earl of Surrey beheaded, 1547.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 19, 1856.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
5 55	6 20	6 45	7 5	7 30	8 0	8 30
9 55	10 10	10 35	11 5	10 40	11 15	11 50
1 55	2 10	2 35	3 5	3 40	4 15	4 50
6 55	7 10	7 35	8 5	8 40	9 15	9 50
12 55	1 10	1 35	2 5	2 40	3 15	3 50
5 55	6 10	6 35	7 5	7 40	8 15	8 50
11 55	12 10	12 35	1 5	1 40	2 15	2 50
5 55	6 10	6 35	7 5	7 40	8 15	8 50
11 55	12 10	12 35	1 5	1 40	2 15	2 50

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The New Volume of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, bound in cloth, richly gilt, is now ready, price 18s. This volume contains a Series of Illustrations (many the size of one and two pages) of the War in the Crimea, and the Campaign in the Baltic, from Sketches by the Special Artists of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. The Visits of the King of Sardinia to France and England, and all the leading events of the last six months, are also copiously illustrated in this volume.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1856.

"WHAT NEXT; AND NEXT?" Such is the title of the new pamphlet which Mr. Cobden has just launched upon the world, to enlighten the darkness of the English mind on the great question of the war. In the performance of a duty which, as journalists, devolves upon us, we have read the pamphlet through with that respectful attention due alike to Mr. Cobden's antecedents, to his undoubted honesty of purpose, and to the responsible position which he holds as a legislator. We think we have discovered the meaning that percolates through its half-hundred closely-printed pages. We think we know what Mr. Cobden is driving at; and, as all our readers are not likely to have the chance of making their way through the pamphlet as we have done, and possibly would not care to do so even if they had, we shall endeavour, in as brief a space as is consistent with lucidity, to epitomise the arguments which the author has employed, and point the conclusion to which he leads them. Mr. Cobden proclaims at the outset that he will studiously avoid all allusion to the original cause of the war; and expresses a hope that "the most strenuous supporters of the war and the most ardent advocates of peace will meet on common ground with him to discuss the probabilities of the future." It is to the probabilities of the future, therefore, that the pamphlet relates. Mr. Cobden does not go the length of his friend Bright, and deny the justice of the war. He does not assert that Russia is right or unambitious. On the contrary, he allows it to be inferred that in his opinion Russia is decidedly in the wrong, and ought never to have been guilty of the wicked cupidity which led it to overawe and invade the Ottoman empire. Mr. Cobden—while tacitly admitting all this—insists, for a variety of reasons, that we ought immediately to make peace. These reasons are, as clearly as we can gather them, as follows:—

First. The expedition to the Crimea was "a leap in the dark." In a two years' campaign "the Allies have lost in killed and wounded in actual combat nearly as many men as it cost Napoleon to gain possession of Moscow," and still Sebastopol "is not wholly in our power." Therefore we have undertaken a task beyond our strength to accomplish, and should immediately make peace!

Secondly. "Assuming the most favourable result—that, after a series of obstinate and bloody encounters, the Russians will be compelled to retreat, and leave the whole of the Crimea in the hands of the Allies—the Allies will be compelled either to abandon it or to retain it." If they abandon it, what is the use of taking it? If they retain it, an army will be required to occupy it. We cannot afford such an army. *Ergo*, make peace, and the sooner the better!

Thirdly. "If, in addition to the retention of the Crimea, the war is to be prosecuted in Bessarabia, or on the Dnieper and the Bug, another army will be required for those operations, to supply the place of that left in the Crimea, and to fill up the vacuum occasioned by our losses in the expulsion of the Russians." As we cannot afford army the first, it is clear that we cannot afford army the second. Therefore there is an additional reason for giving up the struggle!

Fourthly. "But there is another plan of warfare proposed. It has been said, as soon as you have cleared the Crimea of the enemy, withdraw your army, and convert the war into a naval blockade. But will the Russian armies, no longer menaced by the Allies, remain inactive? Russia is at war with Turkey. What, in that case, is to prevent her from pouring reinforcements—either by the pass of Dariel, or by her great highway the Volga, and across the Caspian, which our ships cannot reach—into Georgia, and thus indemnifying herself (as Mr. Layard has predicted she will do) for the loss of the Crimea by fresh conquests in Asia Minor?"—As the best, if not the only, means of averting such a result, it is Mr. Cobden's opinion that the Allies should make peace!

Mr. Cobden is generous enough to admit that the Allies will achieve many successes, though he will not admit that any one or all of these successes will have the least effect in ending the struggle. "We may conclude," he says, "that the further operations indicated by the capture of Kinburn will be carried out; that after the conquest of the Crimea the Allied armies will proceed to attack and capture Nicolaieff; and, notwithstanding the difficulties of approach, and

the obstacles which the genius of Todleben may have created, Perekop will be invested; the forts of the Danube attacked; an army will be landed to occupy Odessa (I will not assume the infamy of a bombardment of that *entrepôt*). I will take for granted that all these operations are successful, and that every place within fifty miles of the Black Sea in Southern Russia is in the hands of the Allies; an army may then be dispatched to Tiflis to drive the Russians from Georgia and their Transcaucasian provinces. That all these objects may be accomplished with time and commensurate efforts—efforts of which the past are but a faint example—by two such nations as France and England, I have never denied; that repeated levies of men and money will be necessary for their accomplishment no one will dispute." Having assumed all these achievements to be effected in a succession of victorious campaigns, "having thus realised the wildest hopes of the most sanguine advocates of the war," Mr. Cobden comes to the object as well as to the title of his pamphlet, and triumphantly exclaims—WHAT NEXT? Even then, he says, Russia will not submit. His reasons for this belief are multifarious, but are divisible into the following, in continuation of the four already given:—

Fifthly. The Allies cannot seize the capital of the Czars, "with its seven miles of suburb and city, interspersed with gardens and trees, its green roofs of sheet iron gleaming to the sun, the hundreds of cupolas, flashing with gold, deep blue or green, spangled with stars, and surmounted with the Greek cross, from which hang gilt chains looped gracefully to the circumference of the cupola, and, crowning all, that picturesque cluster of palaces, churches, and monuments, the Kremlin." For this reason—and Mr. Cobden thinks it more than sufficient, especially as Moscow is so very beautiful—the Allies must yield, and leave Turkey to its fate!

Sixthly. "The Allies cannot sensibly impair the finances of the Russian Government by cutting off the sources of its revenue, for the territory bordering on the Black Sea comprises the poorest, the least populous, and the most uncivilised portion of European Russia." Therefore let England call home her ships, disband her armies, break up her alliance with France; manufacture cotton goods; and leave the world to Russia—or any other power that has the strength to govern or to oppress it!

Seventhly. And this, from Mr. Cobden, is the most extraordinary reason of all:—Russia is a strictly protectionist country, and can feed herself, and carry on a lucrative internal trade, even though the whole civilised world should declare itself against her. For this reason—to use a common phrase—we should immediately "give in." The game is up:—it is of no use to fight against Fate;—Russia is too strong for us. Our place is to be humble and quiet; to mind our own business; and make Mr. Cobden Prime Minister, or President of the English Republic, until such time as Russia shall see fit to decree our annexation to her own empire!

There are other reasons that seem to be equally cogent in Mr. Cobden's mind—the whole of which may be summed up in one sentence:—The Allies cannot conquer, therefore they should yield. If Mr. Cobden were asked what course he should take if he were, without reference to the past, responsible for the policy of the country, he states that he "would seek, above all things, to withdraw every British soldier from Russian territory," because our army may now be brought away without further loss or discredit, and that it may not always be so!

Alas for the reputation that once stood so high! Where would Great Britain be at this moment if her bygone statesmen had been such as Mr. Cobden? A province of a mightier neighbour; the appanage of a more splendid dominion; a nation of self-degraded slaves; her havens shipless; her marts grass-grown; Manchester silent, smokeless, and unpeopled; our very name a matter of history, "pointing the moral and adorning the tale" of greatness deservedly lost, of high position justly forfeited, by the meanest cowardice, the most grovelling subserviency, and the most deplorable fatuity.

Mr. Cobden has done his duty. We hope the electors of the West Riding when they have the chance will not fail to do theirs.

THE COURT.

The circle enjoying the hospitality of her Majesty at Windsor Castle has been this week increased by the arrival of his Royal Highness the Count of Flanders, second son of the King of the Belgians and cousin of the Queen. His Royal Highness landed at Dover from Ostend on Monday, and travelled direct to Windsor Castle.

The other company honoured with invitations during the week have been the Premier and Viscountess Palmerston, the Earl and Countess Granville, Viscount and Viscountess Hardinge, the Belgian Minister and Madame Van de Weyer, and Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons.

On Saturday last the Queen and Prince, with the Princess Alice, attended by the Marchioness of Ely, Lord Charles Fitzroy, and Colonel Seymour, went to London, and honoured the Photographic Exhibition with a visit. Her Majesty afterwards visited the Duchess of Gloucester, at Gloucester House, and returned to Windsor at twenty minutes past one o'clock. In the afternoon her Majesty was visited by the Princess of Salerno, the Prince and Princess Joinville, and the Duchess d'Aumale. The Prince of Wales and Prince Alfred came to town to attend Mr. Faraday's lecture at the Royal Institution.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Duchess of Kent, the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, and the domestic household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of the Castle. The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor performed the service.

The Prince Consort has enjoyed the diversion of hunting, and the Count of Flanders has more than once been out shooting with his Royal Highness in the Great Park.

The Duchess of Kent has dined with her Majesty daily during the week, and the usual musical performances by the Queen's private band have invariably closed the evening.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, attended by Lady Fanny Howard and Sir George Couper, arrived in London, on Wednesday morning, from her residence, Frogmore. Her Royal Highness returned by the Great Western Railway in the afternoon.

His Excellency the American Minister entertained a large party of the corps diplomatique at dinner, on Thursday evening, at his residence in Upper Harley-street. It is understood Mr. Buchanan is about to relinquish his post as Minister at this Court.

Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence has been seriously ill with an attack of gout in the head. His Lordship is now, it is hoped, satisfactorily progressing towards convalescence.

Sir Thomas Moncreiffe has been dangerously ill during the last three weeks at Moncreiffe House. The hon. Baronet still continues in a precarious state.

APPROACHING MARRIAGES IN HIGH LIFE.—Viscount Somerton, eldest son of the Earl of Normanton, is about to form a matrimonial alliance with the Hon. Miss Barrington, eldest surviving daughter of Viscount and Viscountess Barrington. A matrimonial alliance is also about to take place between Captain Sayer, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General at Headquarters, and Miss Phipps, eldest daughter of Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, C.B., and niece of the Marquis of Normanby. The Hon. Wyndham Quin, late of the Grenadier Guards, only brother of the Earl of Dunraven, is likewise about to form a matrimonial alliance with Caroline, third daughter of Admiral Sir George Tyler, M.P., of Cottrell, Glamorganshire.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

THE COAL TRADE OF LONDON.—Statistics prepared by Mr. J. R. Scott show that the total importation of coals into the metropolis in 1855 was 4,177,953 tons, of which 3,016,868 tons were seaborne, the remaining 1,161,085 having been brought by railway. This total presents a decrease of 198,817 tons, as compared with the great importation of 1854; since, although the quantity by railway exhibits an improvement of 183,876 tons, there is a falling off of 392,693 in that by sea—the latter circumstance being partly attributable to the removal of a number of screw-steamers from the trade for more profitable employment as transports under Government.

CANADIAN PRODUCTS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The directors of the Crystal Palace Company have entered into an engagement with the Canadian commissioners at the Paris Exhibition by which one of the best sites in the Palace has been given for the purpose of making an exhibition of the products and manufactures of Canada in every way worthy of the country. It is understood that the Canadian Parliament will vote a sum of about £5000 to carry this purpose into effect, as also an annual grant for keeping it in order, and supplying it with new objects of interest and attraction. No better means could possibly be adopted for disseminating information as to the products and resources of Canada amongst the people of this country. The Canadian collection in the Paris Exhibition has been the admiration of all who have seen it, and of none more than of the Emperor, whom it served to confirm in the sound policy which has dictated the steps recently taken towards increasing the commercial intercourse between Canada and France.

BATHS AND WASHING-HOUSES.—At the grand wardmote held at Guildhall, on Monday, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor in the chair, the following resolution was handed into court by the foreman of the inquest of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West:—"We, your inquest, take this opportunity to state that, being fully sensible of the importance of public baths and washing-houses, in a moral, social, and sanitary point of view, and as likely, if established in the city of London, to conduce in an important degree to the comfort and well-being of our fellow-citizens, we desire to call the especial attention of your worshipful court to the project now before the Corporation of London for the establishment of public baths and washing-houses in the ward of Farringdon Without, in the hope that it may meet with your influential support." The Lord Mayor assured the inquest that the recommendation should receive the immediate and respectful attention of the court.

MR. APSLEY PELLATT, M.P.—A meeting of the electors of Southwark was held at the Southwark Literary Institution, Borough-road, on Monday evening, for the purpose of hearing their honourable member explain his Parliamentary conduct during the past Session. Mr. Apsley Pellatt congratulated the electors on the improved state of public affairs since he addressed them that time last year. He passed a high eulogium on the character of the late Sir William Molesworth, and approved of the election of Sir Charles Napier in his place. In reference to the war he said the Baltic and Black Seas should be thrown open to free-trade, and that the war ought to be continued until these terms were wrung from the reluctant Czar, even at any cost. A motion of confidence was carried after some discussion.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The deaths of 1247 persons—namely, 630 males and 617 females—were registered in London in the week that ended on Saturday last. Taking the first week in each of the last ten years (1846–55), it is found that the average number of deaths then registered was 1311, which, if raised in proportion to increase of population for comparison with the present return, becomes 1442. The public health, therefore, may be stated to be better than it usually is at the commencement of the year. In the first week of 1854, and also in that of 1855, the deaths rose above 1400. Last week the births of 863 boys and 809 girls—in all 1662 children—were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1846–55 the average number was 1579.

MARGARET-STREET DISPENSARY FOR CONSUMPTION AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST.—The anniversary ball in aid of the funds of this excellent charity will take place at Willis's Rooms, on Thursday next, under distinguished patronage.

ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the members of this society was held at their offices, Trafalgar-square, on Wednesday; Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell, M.P., in the chair. The report stated that during the past year 162 cases of immersion, attended with risk to the lives of 198 persons, had been brought under the notice of the officers of the society, and that 25 of these had been cases of attempted suicide. Of the 198 persons so immersed, 180 had been successfully treated; the other 18 having been past recovery. During the same period the society conferred, as rewards of gallantry to those who risked their own lives to save the lives of their fellow-creatures, 16 silver medals, 13 bronze ditto, 3 vellum and 18 parchment testimonials, and £126 in pecuniary recompense. It also stated that the society's boats are continually on the Serpentine, in which, during the last twelve months, 273,161 persons had bathed; being an increase of 80,000 bathers on the year, without one fatal accident having occurred, notwithstanding there had been as many as 39 casualties.

THE OMNIBUS ENTENTE CORDIALE.—The first instalment of the London omnibus connection was passed over to the French Compagnie Générale on Monday last, and was duly worked by them through the day. This was the Holloway line, belonging to Mr. Wilson, and remarkable as the largest connection in the world. It consisted of 50 omnibuses, with 500 horses, employing about 180 men; all of whom are now in the service of the Anglo-French General Omnibus Company of London. The "times," or goodwill, considered to be of equal value with the vehicles, &c., were also made over as part of the bargain. A similar transfer was executed on Monday by Mr. Leonard Willing, the oldest omnibus proprietor in London, who, with others, conveyed to the same parties the Stoke Newington and Kingsland and Dalston line *in toto*, comprising twenty-two omnibuses, 200 horses, and seventy employés. The French Company's intended system of "correspondence" (by which a person getting into an omnibus in any part of London may be conveyed, at one charge, to any point of destination by the mutual exchange of passengers) does not come into action until their new carriages are built and their purchases of the other London lines are completed. How far these have advanced can be judged, since a valuation is actually in progress of the following (for which the bargain has already been struck)—viz., Newington and Hackney (the Wellingtons), 20 omnibuses, 150 horses, with 55 men; Brompton and Fulham, 40 omnibuses, 400 horses, with 140 men; Chelsea and Hoxton, &c., Chelsea and Bethnal-green, 37 omnibuses, 370 horses, and 120 men; Kent-road and Hoxton, 12 omnibuses, 120 horses, with 40 men; Hackney and Clapton, 10 omnibuses, 100 horses, with 35 men; Woodford, 5 four-horse mails; Barnet, 2 four-horse mails, with an establishment of 100 horses and 30 men; making a total now actually the property of the French Compagnie Générale of 198 vehicles, worked by 1940 horses, and giving occupation to 670 men. As might be supposed, the appearance of so wholesale a purchaser has somewhat enhanced the omnibus market, and it is probable that the Compagnie Générale may have to defer further arrangements until the excitement has partially subsided. The following well-known names have already retired from omnibus proprietorship in favour of the French alliance:—Harley, Cancellor, Willing, Macnamara, Wilson, Bennet, Woodford, Hunt, Forge, Proome, Martin, Home, Seale, Westropp, Fox, Rhodes, Johnson, Webb, Hawtre, Smith, Williams, Hinckley, Kerrison, and Breach. The difficulty of weaving into a continuous network the heterogeneous lines of the London omnibus traffic can be easily imagined.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

APPOINTMENTS.—Rectories: The Rev. William Cooke to the Vicarage of Gazeley with the Rectory of Kentford annexed, near Newmarket; the Rev. R. J. Rice to Sutton Courtney, near Abingdon; the Rev. Henry Gough to Charlton-upon-Otmoor, near Oxford; the Rev. Henry Tudway to Walton-cum-Weston-in-Goodacre, near Bristol; the Rev. J. W. Rumsey to Rolvenden, Kent. Vicarage: The Rev. J. D. Gray to Abbotsley, Huntingdonshire. Incumbencies: The Rev. William Jones to St. Thomas's Church, Penybonyawr, Pennant, Montgomeryshire; the Rev. J. C. Bates to King's Sterndale, Derbyshire.

RUSSIAN VIEW OF A BALTIC CAMPAIGN.—Russia possesses at this moment one army in Finland, another in the Baltic provinces, a third in Poland, and yet a fourth in St. Petersburg and its neighbourhood. Surely these are obstacles not to be surmounted in a hurry, nor can anyone dream of doing so. Cronstadt is not Kiuburn. The success obtained by the floating batteries at the bombardment of that petty fortress, where they were employed for the first time, is not yet proved, for the simple reason that Kiuburn, the construction and armament of which had undergone no change since the last century, possessed none of those engines that may be happily employed against these said batteries. There was not even a single Paixhan gun in that fort. It is different with Cronstadt; and, formidable as this fortress has always been, consisting notoriously of several forts, it is more than probable that since those floating batteries have been known at St. Petersburg they have discovered the means of counter-arming themselves there. The present war has proved that the arms of the engineers and artillery are not so badly wielded in Russia, and that under this head their inventive powers are not so poverty-stricken as previously supposed. Thus when reasoning on the hypotheses most favourable to the Allies, the possible chances of a favourable issue to an approaching campaign in the Baltic—whether we consider it to be a gigantic enterprise, comprehending the invasions of Finland and the Baltic provinces, or whether we reduce it to its simplest expression, that is to say, to the mere bombardment of Cronstadt—it cannot by any possibility have for Russia those consequences to which the English journals are pleased to see her already reduced.—*Le Nord*.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE Russians have had the satisfaction of witnessing the deliberate destruction by the French of one of the magnificent docks of Sebastopol. A comparatively small quantity of gunpowder, judiciously applied by the skilful French engineers, had laid this fine work in ruins before the eyes of its late defenders; who attempted to avenge themselves by a vindictive fire, which was rendered harmless by the foresight of the French Commander. It is worse than idle to speak with any kind of regret of the demolition of these superb works. While Art is the servant of Civilisation let her receive all honour; but the moment that Art—whether employed as a vitriol and demoralising agent, or as the assistant of brute force and tyranny—opposes herself to the interests of humanity, let her work be trampled and shattered. The Sebastopol docks may be noble things; but the freedom of the Euxine Sea is a nobler. The Allies seem bent upon giving new significance to the demand which, *inter alia*, has been laid before the Court of St. Petersburg—namely, that Sebastopol shall be a ruin so far as fortification is concerned. The English engineers were not quite so forward as those of France, owing to the greater difficulty presented by the locality with which they had to deal; but it is probable that by this time the whole series of docks has been utterly destroyed. Certain incessant and undesirable interferences on the part of our War Minister are also assigned by writers from the Camp as the reason for our backwardness; but this allegation is one the truth of which at present there is no means of testing, any more than that of the assertion that General Codrington is disposed to object to take quite as many instructions from Lord Panmure as that nobleman is inclined to transmit.

The appointment of Mr. Bramwell as the new Judge (in consequence of the retirement of Baron Parke, who takes the title of Lord Wensleydale, not that of Lord Amphil) has given universal satisfaction. This gentleman had taken little share in politics, and has comparatively little celebrity as a mere advocate; but as a learned and also a practical lawyer, and as a bold and earnest law reformer, he is most honourably known in his profession, and to its heads in the House of Lords. The invaluable service rendered by Mr. Bramwell, and by the gentleman last elevated to the Bench, Mr. Justice Willes, in framing the Act by which common-law procedure was placed upon a more rational basis, was understood to have constituted their final claim to the dignity each has now attained; and it is to the credit of Lord Palmerston's Government that such appointments should be based upon such considerations, and not upon those of partisanship. Had this last influence prevailed the new Judge would have been a very excellent lawyer, and a staunch supporter of Liberalism, to whom most persons supposed the vacant office would be given, and against whom nothing could be said, except that Mr. Bramwell's appointment is a better one for the public. A contemporary reminds the newly-made magistrate that there are some very important cases about to be heard, that murder is very rife, and that it is expected the Judges will deal out unhesitating justice. Those who know Mr. Justice Bramwell will be inclined to entertain no apprehension lest "maudlin philanthropy" should in the slightest degree interfere with his enforcing the due execution of the laws—his sound, shrewd sense being one of his best-recognised qualifications for his office.

While the public is waiting to see what kind of reply the Eastern Counties Railway Committee will make to Mr. Waddington's cleverly-put plea for his own management, the public had better keep off the Eastern Counties Railway itself; for there appears to exist there even a worse rottenness than that of administration. An official intimation has gone forth from the Mayor of the most important place the railway connects with London, stating that an investigation of the condition of the line itself has been made—not, of course, by the railway authorities, but by those who think rather of lives than of dividends—and the appalling result is that the Government Surveyor reports such a state of unsoundness, such a mass of decayed piles, and so many doubtful bridges, that the Mayor most properly notifies to his fellow-citizens that they had better not travel on a road where there is such imminent peril of a frightful catastrophe. Common sense would say that such a caution ought to be followed up by the instant closing of the line; but its owners will not do this; and it appears that the Government cannot, according to law, although it could interdict the opening. License once given is given for ever, is a legal conventionality, in obedience to which the public is to be allowed to expose itself to the danger of a wholesale massacre. In a rational state of society a representation by a number of engineers confirming of such a statement of danger as has been made in the case of the Eastern Counties would be held an indemnity to the Home Secretary for closing any railway line or other communication in the kingdom; but it is better that we should be killed lawfully, and then that our relations should bring actions for the loss of our lives, than that a paternal Government should save us without warrant.

There seems to be some prospect of a reform in the most popular system of metropolitan conveyance. The cabmen have been greatly improved under Mr. Fitzroy's Act; and although the public is foolish enough to allow one of his provisions—that which makes the giving a ticket imperative—to fall into desuetude, so that a cabman is inclined to feel indignant when asked for what he ought to offer unasked, the general verdict of riders in these vehicles is not unsatisfactory. The omnibus system is now to be improved. An Anglo-French company is endeavouring to get the omnibus traffic into its hands, with a view to the making the carriage better, having a uniform charge, and introducing that arrangement, so useful in Paris, by which a traveller is transferred, for one payment, from vehicle to vehicle, so as to ensure his reaching his point, be it where it may, with speed and certainty. A great number of the owners of omnibuses have sold them to the French company, which has commenced working; but it is necessary that the system should be complete, and, of course, much opposition is offered to it by certain parties who hope to extort larger prices. The public, however, is with the new company; and, if it be necessary to apply to Parliament for compulsory consolidation, the boon would be so great that no private hostility would be successful. Our London omnibus, with some creditable exceptions, is a wretched, dirty, rickety box, as uncomfortable as possible, with bad rattling windows that let in draughts but do not ventilate; the pace is arbitrary, either an irritating crawl or a dangerous race; the fares vary at the whim of the owners; and the servants are rough, insolent fellows, with one thought only, that of filling the vehicle so as to secure their own profit. The omnibus, however, might be rendered a pleasant mode of conveyance, and we wish all success to the new undertaking. While in its infancy it is not improbable that the ruffianism of many who expect to be injured by it may be exerted to render it unpopular. We should be glad to know that employment was given by the new company to every decent and civil man who has hitherto gained his bread by the omnibus; but there is a great mass of "roughs" to be got rid of, and we trust that if they "show fight" the magistrates will unhesitatingly call in the "crank" as umpire.

The Rugeley poison case continues to excite the most widely-spread interest. There can be no moral doubt that murder, for the sake of gain, has been the hideous habit of the accused man. His wife's body is found to contain quantities of antimony; which, from certain signs, is known to have been administered up to the last moment, though none was prescribed by her medical attendants, and she was slain by the exhaustion produced by continuous vomiting. Other new and important evidence is also in the hands of the prosecution, and, despite the promised forensic exhibition for which Mr. Serjeant Wilkins is said to be engaged, it is not probable that the course of human justice will be turned aside, as the general feeling now seems to be that it was on the last poison trial.

A sort of dispute, in which her Majesty's so-called "servants," the Drury Lane actors, are on the one side, and the arrangers of the Windsor

Palace theatricals are on the other, has afforded some conversation. It appears that, for reasons which those acquainted with theatrical politics perfectly understand, her Majesty has not been recommended to patronise the present management of Drury-lane Theatre. A discussion as to the entire consistency of this course, taking into consideration all that is patent in connection with stage matters, might lead into rather a large discussion. Suffice it to say that, according to certain surface doctrines, the refusal of patronage to the management in question might be conventionally defended. But it is wished to produce some dramas at Windsor, for which the aid of Mr. Charles Mathews and other artists now engaged at Drury Lane is required. Mr. Kean, who directs the Palace performances, applies to these actors, and their manager refuses them permission to perform before the Queen. The refusal displayed both want of tact and want of courtesy; but we are really unable to affix to it any greater amount of blame; and, if we have any regret upon the point, it is that some exceedingly clever artists lose the opportunity of acquiring such honour and profit as might accrue to them from a performance in the Rubens Room at Windsor.

COUNTRY NEWS.

A MUNIFICENT CHRISTMAS-BOX.—Mr. J. P. Heywood, of the firm of A. Heywood, Sons, and Co., extensive bankers, Liverpool, has given the handsome sum of 1000 guineas, to be divided among the clerks and employees of the establishment, as a timely aid to them, as clerks with fixed salaries, during the pressure caused by the war.

THE IRON TRADE IN SOUTH WALES.—No fewer than four new blast-furnaces are about to be erected at Pontypridd, in Glamorganshire, by Mr. Francis Crawshaw. The foundations have been commenced, and these, with the construction of an incline plane and tramroads, will afford employment to numbers during the winter. A decided improvement has taken place in the Welsh trade. An advance has been made in the price of common bars at the works in the principality, and there is a considerable demand for them in the northern markets. The collieries are exceedingly busy.

TESTIMONIAL.—A few evenings since Mr. James Eaton, professor of singing, was presented by the members of the drawing classes of the Mechanics' Institution, Manchester, with a handsomely-bound copy of the works of the poet Longfellow, in acknowledgment of Mr. Eaton's valuable services at several annual soirées of the above classes.

"COMMON THINGS V. BOOK LEARNING."—A statement was made at the last meeting of the Leicester Board of Guardians to the effect that "out of 99 girls and young women in the workhouse school there was not one who could iron a shirt or get up linen properly, and the matron had said that were it not for her private servant she would be under the necessity of putting this work out of the house to be done." A further statement was made that persons who had taken girls out of the house as domestic servants had returned them, saying they rather required waiting upon themselves than to serve others.

A LEAP IN THE DARK.—On Sunday last a female who was in charge of police-officers made her escape out of a carriage on the North Kent line, while the train was proceeding at the rate of twenty miles an hour through the tunnel, which is two miles and a half in length. When they were in total darkness, she contrived to open the door, and thus let herself out without being felt: she was not missed until the train arrived in the light. Every one concluded that she was killed, and the station-master immediately proceeded into the tunnel with an engine to find the body; but, to his surprise, on the engine coming up to the opening of the tunnel, midway between Higham and Strood, he found her endeavouring to make her escape by climbing up the cliff, which is upwards of sixty feet high, and almost perpendicular. She was recaptured.

"IN THEIR DEATHS DIVIDED."—The Bishop of Exeter has just been involved in a dispute with the burial board of Torrington. The board have divided the new burial ground into two sections—one being intended for the members of the Church, and the other for religiousists of other denominations. Between the two parts runs a gravelled pathway, seven feet wide, leaving a broad distinction between the two sections, every way suitable to the wishes of the Churchmen of the place. The Bishop refuses to sanction the site until the Church's division "be well and sufficiently fenced from all other grounds, whether for the burial of Dissenters or otherwise." To this demand the board demurred, and a resolution was carried to the effect that no other fence than that of the wide grave-walk be put up. The question, therefore, rests between the contending parties, and it remains to be seen which will come off victorious.

PROPOSED PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND TRANSFER OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES IN MANCHESTER.—A resolution was passed by the Manchester Town Council on Wednesday—on the motion of Mr. Alderman Barnes, seconded by Mr. Alderman Heywood—to the effect that a great public as well as private advantage would be secured if the privilege were granted for transferring Government securities and receiving the dividends thereon in that city, and in all other towns in which a branch of the Bank of England has been established; and it was determined to memorialise the Government upon the subject.

A CONGREGATION NEARLY SUFFOCATED.—The new church at Ambleside has recently been warmed by means of flues leading from a coke fire. Owing to some imperfection in the flues, a deleterious gas issued into the body of the church during the morning service last Sunday. Young children, being nearest the floor, were first affected, and about twenty of them followed one another out before the adults took the alarm. At about the middle of the sermon the congregation rose in a body and went out, to the apparent astonishment of the preacher, who, in his elevated pulpit, was unaware of the mischief. He was left entirely alone in the church. The scene in the churchyard was singular for a day in January—numbers of persons were laid on the grass, fainting, convulsed, and moaning. None altogether escaped injury. During the afternoon the druggist's shop was crowded with applicants for stimulant medicines—debility and headache preying on the population like a plague. None of the cases have terminated fatally, but the danger to several must have been imminent. Repeated warnings had been given to the authorities for weeks past by the ringers and others who had suffered from the fumes of the coke, but no notice was taken; and on Sunday last the doors were shut, and kept shut, by the churchwardens, whose practice it is to go to the pews during prayers, to see whether any drinking is going forward, and who will allow no admission of air during their absence, or on their return. By the latest accounts, some of the invalids were rather worse than better, while others had nearly recovered.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT AT WINDSOR.—On Saturday last a singular accident occurred at the White Hart Inn, Windsor. The chambermaid, who had long been in service in the house, was going down stairs with a basin in her hands, when she made a false step and slipped down stairs, the basin broke, and the young woman fell upon a piece, which cut the jugular vein, and she died on the spot.

THE CASE OF MRS. WOOLER.—The auditors of the county of Durham, in presenting the accounts the other day, mentioned that the late prosecution in the great Burdon poisoning case had cost the county no less than £512.

THE BANK FAILURE IN LICHFIELD.—About three o'clock on Monday afternoon a panic was created in Lichfield by the appearance of a written paper on the closed door of the banking establishment long known as "Palmer and Greene's Bank." The writing was as follows:—"Lichfield Bank.—It is with deep concern I find myself compelled to close the door of this establishment. The circumstances which occasion the necessity are remote, and will be fully explained without delay.—Richard Greene." From the extensive credit enjoyed by this bank the firm had almost a monopoly of the business of this neighbourhood, and the consequences of their stoppage are most distressing. The Lichfield Union, the Savings Bank, the Excise, the Dean and Chapter, the Corporation, the Street Rate, the Dispensary, the Militia, the Conduit Lands Trust, the Yeomanry, the Half-pay Officers, the Turnpike Trusts, many charities (but not the municipal charities), and other public accounts, are all locked up. Lichfield has never before received such a shock, and many private persons who had funds in the bank will be seriously inconvenienced. On Tuesday Mr. Greene attended at the Bankruptcy Court, Birmingham, and filed a petition in bankruptcy. On Wednesday he attended, accompanied by Mr. Knight, solicitor, and surrendered. The cause of the stoppage is, it appears, a debt of £50,000 or £60,000 due to the bank by the late Mr. Palmer, the senior partner. The amount of his liability is £220,000; the assets amount to from £150,000 to £160,000, available from mining property, which is good, money, general securities, &c.; the Pelsall and Brownhill Colliery is, of course, included. The bank was established so far back as 1765.—*Staffordshire Advertiser.*

SALE OF THE BOROUGH COMPTER.—On Wednesday the Borough Compter, which is situate in Tooley-street, was sold by auction by Messrs. Pullen and Son, the auctioneers. The materials of the building, which is very extensive, and which occupied a large area, consisted of the usual appurtenances of a prison—viz., massive iron gates, strong doors, spiked guards, fences, and railings, fittings of cells, dormitories, baths, &c. The property also comprised about 500,000 bricks, 2500 feet of York paving, 100 bedsteads, stone staircases, several tons of lead, &c. A great number of persons took the opportunity of visiting the interior of the prison, and an active competition took place for the various lots.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

General Bosquet, summoned to Paris by telegraph, left Pau on the 3rd for that capital. It is supposed that he will assist at the grand Council of War convoked by the Emperor. On Sunday last he dined at the Tuilleries.

Mr. Sausse, Assistant-Barrister for the county of Wexford, has been appointed a Puisne Judge of Bombay, with a salary of £8000 a year.

The learned Professor Frederick Hermann, of Göttingen, died at that place on the 31st ult. Hermann is the third professor of eminence at the same University who has been called hence within the last six weeks.

The chairmanship of Wexford, to which Sir Colman O'Loughlin has been appointed, is worth £900 a year.

Dr. Lushington stated in the Admiralty Court, on Tuesday, that forty years ago he was counsel in a cause relating to the very ship which brought William III. to this country.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* announces the death of the Privy Councillor Labensky, of the Russian Foreign-office. To the pen of this gentleman the most able of Count Nesselrode's notes have been ascribed.

Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Martin are both canvassing at Rochester, and the contest appears likely to be a close one. Mr. Bodkin expresses his desire to support the Government in their effective prosecution of the war.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Rural Economy at Stoc,holm has just elected M. Michel Chevalier, of Paris, and Mr. James Hudson, secretary of the London Agricultural Society, as corresponding members.

The funeral of M. David (d'Angers), the celebrated sculptor and Republican, took place on Tuesday at the Cemetery of Père la Chaise. The cortege left the residence of the deceased, Rue d'Assis, at eleven o'clock. There was no mass celebrated, M. David having died a Protestant.

Mr. Bramwell has been appointed a Baron of the Exchequer in the place of Sir James Parke.

There is no truth in the statement that Mr. Denison, M.P. for the West Riding, intends to retire at the end of this Parliament into private life.

Notwithstanding all reports to the contrary, Mlle. Cruvelli has really become the Baroness Vigier. Her marriage was solemnised on Saturday last at the Mayorality of the first arrondissement, and afterwards in a Catholic and a Protestant Church, the lady being a Protestant.

The statement that Sir Brook Bridges, Bart., is likely to be brought forward at the next general election by the University of Oxford, in the room of Mr. Gladstone, is contradicted.

A medal has been struck at the Paris Mint in commemoration of the celebrated loan of 750,000,000 fr. France is represented as receiving the tribute of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Arts, over which soars the Genius of War.

One of the seats for Tamworth is rendered vacant by Captain Townshend's accession to the peerage; and a requisition has been signed by the most influential electors, requesting the late member's eldest son (now Lord Raynham) to allow himself to be put in nomination.

According to a statement published by the Prussian *Moniteur* the Census taken last month shows the present population of Prussia to be 17,178,491 souls.

At a sale of land, the property of John Burrow, Esq., at Wedmore, last week, eighteen acres of grazing land in one piece were sold at the enormous sum of £2460, or about £135 per acre.

The 2nd of January was appointed for the opening of the Conferences on the Sound Dues, but they have been postponed *sine die*.

The Duke of Cambridge, with the other military and naval officers composing the English portion of the Council of War, left town at an early hour on Wednesday morning for Paris.

The Paris correspondent of the *Independence* mentions a rumour that the Emperor Napoleon will command in person one of the armies to act against Russia in the ensuing spring.

Le Comte Philippe de Flandre, accompanied by Capitaine de Bunnal (Aide-de-Camp to the Prince) and a numerous suite, arrived at Dover on Monday morning, at one o'clock, and started in the evening for Windsor.

The Duke d'Aumale arrived at Turin on the 1st inst., intending to leave that capital for Switzerland, after paying a visit to King Victor Emmanuel.

The bedchamber in the Palace of the Elysée occupied by Queen Hortense, and in which Louis Napoleon was born, is being made ready to receive the Empress.

The Duke de Calabre, Prince Royal of the Two Sicilies, born on January 16, 1836, has just been betrothed to the Princess Caroline Thérèse Helène, born on April 4, 1834, daughter of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria, and sister of the reigning Empress of Austria.

Colonel Manteuffel had recently an audience of the Emperor of Austria, to deliver an autograph letter from his Majesty the King of Prussia.

Baron James Rothschild has left Paris for Madrid, to support the pretensions of the Prost Company against M. Pereire, for the establishment of a Crédit Mobilier Society there.

A royal proclamation just published decrees that the King of Denmark's marriage with the Countess Danner shall ever remain morganatic, and be so inscribed in the State calendar.

The French Emperor and Empress, after walking for an hour on Sunday on the river terrace of the Tuilleries, went down into the garden among all the promenaders, and proceeded towards the large basin. On reaching that spot the Emperor mounted his horse and the Empress got into an open calèche, and proceeded without escort across the Place de la Concorde and up the grand avenue of the Champs Elysées.

Lord Stanley, M.P., has arrived at Hughenden Manor, on a visit to the Right Hon. B. Disraeli, M.P.

The Civil List of the Sultan, for the maintenance of the Imperial establishment, which was formerly 6,500,000 piasters per month, has been raised lately to 10,000,000, principally in consequence of the high prices of provisions.

The Archduke John of Austria left Vienna on the 2nd inst. for Gratz, in Styria.

The title to be taken by Baron Parke will be that of Lord Wensleydale, of Wensleydale, in the county of York.

The Archbishop of Milan has issued a circular establishing, in virtue of the new concordat, an ecclesiastical censorship over all books printed within, or introduced into, his diocese.

Rear-Admiral Sir Michael Seymour, K.C.B., late second in command of the Baltic fleet, has completely lost the sight of the eye which was injured by the explosion of an infernal machine in the Gulf of Finland last summer.

General Mouravieff is to take the command in the Crimea, where it is expected the prestige of his success will be more useful to Russia than in Asia.

Gold has been found in several parts of the Danubian Principalities.

Abraham Baker, convicted of the murder of his fellow-servant Naomi Kingwell (at Southampton, on the 14th October last), was hanged on Tuesday at Winchester.

The telegraph wire from the Monastery of St. George to Varna is not likely to be again ready for work till the end of February or commencement of March. The breakage has been found to be about twenty-five miles this side of Varna.

The *Spectateur* of Dijon states that the Jesuits have purchased for 93,000fr. a large building in that town, with the courts and gardens adjoining known by the name of the Petits-Citeaux.

A large number of small brass Roman coins were found a short time since at Nunburnholm, in the East Riding of the county of York. They have passed into the hands of Lord Muncaster, who proposes to cede them to Lord Londesborough, the lord of the manor.

Messrs. Walter and Schlesinger, of Vienna, have obtained a patent in Vienna for an invention whereby a railway train at full speed may be brought to a standstill without danger to the engine, waggons, or human life.

The Customs revenue for the port of Glasgow, for the year 1855, amounts to £700,476 17s. 5d., being an increase over the preceding year of £31,920 8s. 1d.

Mr. Ignatius Meyer has caused several trials of goldwashing to be made in different parts of the Danube, and it is reported that they have been attended with the best success.

A contract has been entered into by the Government for the supply of £20,000 worth of granite from the Gannislake quarries for the service of the Breakwater at Plymouth.

During the last few months large excavations of ironstone have been made in Middlesbrough.

The protest of the Catalan deputies against the re-establishment of the tariffs was presented to the Cortes on the 4th inst., and a stormy debate was expected to be raised by the Democrats on this important question.

Jonathan Heywood, sentenced, at the last South Lancashire assizes, to be hanged for the murder of Mrs. Jones, at Rochdale, in August last, was executed at the front of Kirkdale Gaol on Saturday last.



THE FRENCH IMPERIAL GUARD,—HORSE ARTILLERY.—(SEE PAGE 42.)



THE CRIMEAN TROOPS DEFILING AT THE FOOT OF THE COLUMN, PLACE VENDÔME.—(SEE NEXT PAGE)

THE RECEPTION OF THE CRIMEAN TROOPS IN PARIS.

The 29th of December will not soon be forgotten in Paris. All the streets were alive at daybreak, either with troops or National Guards marching to their stations, or with the population bent upon procuring a good place. Many persons who never go to the national anniversary fêtes, who did not see Queen Victoria, and who, in short, make an ostentatious profession of staying at home, did violence to their usages, and set out that morning at an early hour to see the entry into Paris of the heroes who had, by the risk of their lives for more than a year past in the Crimea, sustained and enhanced the reputation of the French army. It was impossible to walk along the Boulevards, vast as they are. Thousands who proposed to themselves to go to the Bastille were compelled, after useless efforts, to take up a position and wait to see the procession pass.

Before eleven o'clock the troops of the garrison and the National Guard took their place along the whole extent of the Boulevards, to form a line from the Place de la Bastille to the Place Vendôme, the National Guard taking the right side. The troops arrived from the Crimea were massed on the quays of the canal leading into the Seine, at the entrances of the Rues St. Antoine, de Lion, and de Charenton, and spreading out on the Place de la Bastille, in front of the Boulevard Beaumarchais, the regiments of the Line being nearest the Column. The pupils of the Ecole Polytechnique and that of St. Cyr occupied the two sides of the Place de la Bastille nearest the Boulevard. A triumphal arch was erected at the entrance to the Boulevard Beaumarchais, from the designs of M. Baltard, the city architect, and inscribed "To the Glory of the Army." In the middle of the frieze, which represented various attributes of war, was an escutcheon bearing the word "Sebastopol" in letters of gold. On the pillars were eagles, with wings displayed, and having on one pillar, each under an eagle, the words "Bomarsund," "Eupatoria," "Kertch," "Kinburna," "Sveaborg," "Balaklava," "Oltenitz," and "Kamiesch;" and, on the other pillar, "Alma," "Inkerman," "Traktir," "Koughil," "Malakoff," "Siliestria," and one or two other scrolls. This monumental gate occupied the whole breadth of the Boulevard, and was more than four yards in thickness under the arch. A second triumphal arch was erected near the Porte St. Martin Theatre. The façades of the theatres were all admirably decorated, and large standards and wreaths of tricoloured flags were displayed along the entire route. At half-past eleven Marshal Magnan arrived on the ground with his staff to assume the command, and employed himself until the arrival of the Emperor in seeing that the position of the troops was exactly as it should be.

The Emperor left the Tuilleries at a quarter past eleven—the cortège being preceded by the regiment of Guides, a picket of the Cent-Gardes, and orderly officers. Then came the Emperor and Prince Napoleon, surrounded by a brilliant staff of generals, officers of the household, and foreign officers—English, Piedmontese, and Turks. Behind all were a squadron of the Cent-Gardes and the Cuirassier Regiment of the Guard. The route followed was the Rue de Rivoli, the Place Vendôme, the Rue de la Paix, and the line of the Boulevards, the air ringing with acclamations as the Emperor appeared. Soon afterwards the Empress arrived at the Ministry of Justice to be present at the défilé. A vast gallery had been erected along the front of the hotel, covered with red velvet, and completed with draperies of the same material. There the Empress took her seat, accompanied by Prince Jerome and the Princess Mathilde. The ladies of the Allied Ambassadors had received the honour of an invitation from the Empress to take their seats near her. On reaching the Place de la Bastille, the Emperor was received by the army with an enthusiasm difficult to be described. His Majesty contemplated them for an instant with an earnest gaze, and then urging his horse to the central point from which the mass of troops diverged in a fanlike form, uncovered, and harangued his soldiers in the following words, delivered with that Imperial clearness and strength of voice which seem to belong alone to the ruler of the French:—

Soldiers,—I come to meet you, as the Roman Senate of old came to the gates of Rome to meet their victorious legions. I come to tell you that you have deserved well of your country.

My emotion is great; for with the happiness of again beholding you are mingled painful regrets for those who are no more, and a profound chagrin not to have been able myself to lead you into action.

Soldiers of the Guard and Soldiers of the Line, you are welcome. You both represent that army of the East whose courage and perseverance have newly illustrated our eagles, and reconquered for France the rank that was her due.

The country, attentive to all that has been accomplished in the East, welcomes you, with so much the more pride, that it measures your efforts by the obstinate resistance of the enemy.

I have recalled you, though the war is not ended, because it is just to replace by turns those regiments that have suffered most. Each will thus go to take its share of glory; and the land that maintains six hundred thousand soldiers is interested that there should be now in France a numerous and war-trained army ready to turn where necessity may require.

Carefully, then, preserve the habits of war; strengthen yourselves in the experience you have gained; hold yourselves ready to answer, if need be, to my appeal. But to-day forget the trials of a soldier's life; thank God for having spared you; and march proudly amid your brethren in arms and your fellow-citizens, whose acclamations await you."

The Emperor then took his station in the Place Vendôme, near the gallery in which the Empress was seated, and the troops defiled, General Canrobert having been honoured by the Emperor with the command of this operation. The 20th, 39th, 50th, and 90th Regiments of the Line came first; then the Chasseurs-à-pied, Zouaves, Voltigeurs, and Grenadiers and Artillery of the Guard. The cheers of the populace, which were tremendous throughout the whole affair, were redoubled as General Canrobert was seen advancing at the head of those war-stained veterans. The soiled uniforms, but still more the haggard and worn appearance of the men's swarthy faces, told a tale of suffering and endurance which drew tears from many of the spectators, and the intensity and earnestness of the cheering exceeded anything ever before heard in Paris. The flag of one of the regiments (the 50th) was torn to ribbons; the white maculated with the blood stains, which changed its colour to a doubtful red; and the eagle which surmounts the shaft showed, by one of its wings shot off, the fierceness of the struggle it had been engaged in. Behind the bands of each regiment marched the wounded for whom the exertion was not too great; and the shouting, clapping of hands, and waving of handkerchiefs which greeted them brought a smile of proud satisfaction on their poor wan faces, which it was impossible to see unmoved. Several of the officers who had distinguished themselves were also recognised, and cheered to the echo. After the troops of the Line came the Voltigeurs of the Imperial Guard. Their reception was cold, compared with that awarded their comrades of the Line, although their gallantry is a fact beyond doubt. This may be easily explained by the well-fed and comfortable look of the men, who, from their stay in the Crimea having been rather limited, have not gone through the wear and tear of the campaign like their less-favoured brethren in arms, and therefore had not the same claim on the sympathy of the public. The Chasseurs-à-pied, whose flag was riddled with balls, and the far-famed Zouaves, followed. The latter were received by the population with extraordinary enthusiasm. These sporting troops, for the most part Parisians, were recognised individually by hundreds, and they often ran out of the ranks to embrace their friends. As they passed along to the air of "La Casquette du Pere Bugeaud," their jaunty, devil-me care bearing electrified the spectators, and renewed the bursts of cheering which the Line had first called forth. The tumultuous applause and shouts, and clapping of innumerable hands, which, in the open space, sounded like distant musketry, continued until they disappeared in the windings of the Boulevards. The march was brought up by the Artillery, Grenadiers, and Gendarmes de la Garde, whose reception was also of the warmest description; but the "lions" of the day were unquestionably the Line, the Zouaves, and the Chasseurs-à-pied.

Without taking the noble reception given to the troops as a positive manifestation in favour of the war, certain it is that had it been as unpopular as some writers in England and France take a pleasure in describing it, no such eagerness to be present to do honour to those gallant fellows would have been displayed. The day was mild, but the absence of sunshine was calculated to deprive the scene of all the attraction of a military show; but this served to give a more serious and unmistakable character to this exhibition of the public feeling. It was, indeed, impossible to see these thousands of brave men, with the marks of severe toil and fatigue on their bronzed features, their dingy uniforms, and tattered standards, without a recollection of the dangers they had gone through, and a passing sigh for those of their gallant comrades they had seen fall at their side. The cheering of the spectators as each gloious band passed on proceeded from the heart, and irrepressible tears flowed down many a manly cheek among the humblest of the populace, at the sight of the little laurel branch borne by the war-worn soldier, and at the small wreath of the immortelles attached to the tattered colours, signifying that its last gallant bearer was no more. These touching little incidents everywhere seemed to send a thrill of emotion through the crowd, and to mingle a feeling of deep and generous sympathy with the triumph of the day.

Our Paris Correspondent speaks in equally strong terms of the universal enthusiasm with which the Crimean veterans were received. Writing a few days after the ceremony, he says:—

Paris has not yet recovered from the emotion caused by the entrance of the army on Saturday. Rarely have the annals of a nation had to record a sight or a ceremony so touching as that of the 29th December, 1855. From early morning, the route by which the troops were to make their entrance into the capital was lined with crowds of eager and anxious spectators, not of the class that usually attend sights and fêtes—not persons moved by mere idle curiosity and desire for excitement—but a crowd, earnest, serious, full of emotion, and deep and often painful interest. As the hour when the arrival of the remains of a portion of the great army that, but a few months since, went forth in health, strength, vigour, and confidence, was expected, an almost breathless excitement appeared. At last they came; and a burst of intense emotion, cries, acclamations, tears, and earnest welcomes, spoke the feelings of the impassioned crowd, as the broken ranks—for the places of those who had fallen were left vacant—marched past. Not a house, hardly a window, the whole length of the Boulevards, the Place Vendôme, &c., but showed some sign of rejoicing. Flags, lampions, trophies, appeared from ground floor to attic; the theatres and public buildings were covered with transparencies, allegories, mottoes, &c., &c. Lampions by millions were exposed for sale at all sorts of shops, and, for the most part, bought up before night. So real and genuine a demonstration of public interest and feeling we never before witnessed, and never can the solemnity of the 29th December be forgotten by those who took part in it even as simple spectators.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

SIR HENRY EVERY, BART.

SIR HENRY EVERY, ninth Baronet, of Egginton Hall, county Derby, was the eldest son of Sir Edward Every, the fifth Baronet, by his wife, Mary, daughter of Edward Mosley, Esq., of Horsley, Derbyshire, and widow of William Elliott, Esq., and likewise of Joseph Bird, Esq. He was born the 4th June, 1777, and succeeded, as ninth Baronet, on the demise of his father, the 28th December, 1785. He married, the 22nd December, 1798, Penelope, youngest daughter of Sir John Parker Mosley, Bart., by whom (who died in 1812) he had issue four sons and a daughter. Sir Henry Every—who lived the life of an English country gentleman, and who was much and deservedly beloved and respected—died on the 28th ult., at his seat, Egginton Hall, Burton-on-Trent, Derbyshire. He is succeeded by his grandson, now the tenth Baronet, the eldest son of Sir Henry's eldest son, Henry Every, Esq., of Beaumont Lodge, Windsor, by his second wife, Caroline, younger daughter of Henry Jeffery, fourth Viscount Ashbrook. Henry Every, Esq., of Beaumont, died the 27th February, 1853. The ancient family of Every, Baronets, is a branch of the noble house of Yvery, of Norman extraction: it enjoyed, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, large possessions in Staffordshire.

PRINCE DE SCHINAS.

THE Grand Postelnik, Prince de Schinas, related to the ancient reigning families of the Danubian Principalities, and Seigneur of Moldavia, died at Spa on the 16th ult., aged sixty-two years. This nobleman combined with great intelligence and learning a natural kindheartedness that made him much beloved. He lived latterly at Spa, and he there gained the respect and affection of the visitors and residents. The stranger-inhabitants of Spa, especially the English, looked on the Prince as an old and familiar friend, and his remembrance will remain long traditional among them. The Prince's funeral was conducted at Spa with great pomp; a large concourse of the inhabitants of all classes followed the remains to their last home. The town of Spa was represented by the Burgomaster, who was the chief pallbearer.

SIR WILLIAM WYNN.

MAJOR SIR WILLIAM WYNN, of Hendreywellian, Merionethshire, who died on the 23rd ult., aged eighty-five, entered the Army in 1794. He was in 1810 appointed Captain of Sandown Fort, Isle of Wight, and in the same year was knighted. He married Miss Long, daughter of Colonel Long, of Tubney Lodge, Berks, which lady died in 1850. Sir William was a magistrate, and a Deputy-Lieutenant of Merionethshire.

THE MARQUIS OF AILESBURY.

CHARLES BRUDENELL BRUCE, first Marquis and Earl of Ailesbury; Earl Bruce, of Whorlton, co. York; Viscount Savernake, of Savernake Forest, co. Wilts; and Baron Bruce, of Tottenham, co. Wilts, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, was the youngest son of Thomas, first Earl of Ailesbury, by his first marriage with Susanna, daughter of H. Hoare, Esq., and widow of Charles Viscount Dungarvan, son of John, fifth Earl of Cork and Orrery. Charles, first Marquis of Ailesbury, was born on the 14th February, 1773. Previously to his accession to the peerage on the death of his father, the Earl of Ailesbury, in April, 1814, he represented Marlborough in the House of Commons during several Parliaments, and was throughout his public life a zealous Conservative of the old school. He was twice married—first, on the 10th April, 1793, to the Hon. Henrietta Maria Hill, eldest daughter of Noel, first Lord Berwick (who died the 2nd of January, 1831), by whom the deceased leaves surviving Lady Augusta, married to Thomas F. Vernon Wentworth, Esq., George, Earl Bruce, and Lord Ernest Bruce, M.P., Vice-Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household; and, secondly, on the 20th of August, 1833, to Maria, youngest daughter of the Hon. Charles Tollemache, by whom he has an only son, Lord Charles Bruce, in the 1st Life Guards. The deceased was the Ranger of Savernake Forest, and, with the exception of the Earl of Aberdeen, the senior Knight of the Order of the Thistle, having been knighted in 1819. He was, within two years after he had obtained that distinction, created a Marquis by George IV. The Marquis, who was heir presumptive to the Earldom of Cardigan, died on the 4th inst., and is succeeded by his eldest son, George William Frederick, Earl Bruce, Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry Cavalry, born 20th November, 1804, who was, in 1839, summoned to the House of Lords by the title of Baron Bruce, of Tottenham.

WILLS.—The will of the late Alderman Lawrence was sworn under £50,000 personality; Sir Andrew Vincent Corbett, Bart., £9000; Dame Caroline Eliza Campbell, of Dover, £2000; George Probyn, Esq., of Bryanston-square, £30,000; William Pigott Lee Buckle, Esq., of Cleveland, £10,000; Henry Penny, Esq., banker, Yeovil, £16,000.

THE WILL OF THE LATE THOMAS CUBITT, Esq., is one of the longest on record, and extends to 386 chancery folios, covering 30 skins of parchment. The personal estate exceeds one million (termed in law of upper value), and is charged with the highest amount in the scale of probate duty, the stamp being £15,000. The widow has an immediate bequest of £20,000, and an annuity of £8000 a year.

NEW ORDER IN CHANCERY.—The following new order in Chancery has been issued:—"Every decree, order, report, certificate, petition, and document made, presented, or used in any cause in this court, is to be distinguished by having written on the first page of such decree, order, report, certificate, petition, and document, the day of the year, the letter and number by which the cause is distinguished, in the cause-books kept by the clerks of records and writs. The clerks of records and writs are, in addition to the entries heretofore made by them in their respective cause-books, to enter therein respectively the date of every decree, order, report, and certificate which shall be made in each cause. The entry of every such decree and order is also to contain a reference to the date and folio of the registrar's book in which such decree or order shall have been entered."

SCARCITY OF GOLD AND SILVER IN RUSSIA.—Great activity in the arsenals, and great want of gold and silver money, are the two facts most prominent in advices from St. Petersburg. A letter from that capital, dated the 26th ult., published in the Berlin National Gazette, says:—"Notwithstanding the numerous issues of paper money, repeated loans, and patriotic gifts of no inconsiderable amount, money—i.e. gold and silver—has become exceedingly scarce. It is affirmed that even in the Baltic provinces, where trade is more active than in other districts, nothing but paper money is to be seen from Gatchina to Kowno. The Minister of Finance has repeatedly sought to remedy this state of things, but all his endeavours while war lasts. He has, therefore, thought himself of the vote of the Council of State, on the 7th February, 1849, for the issue of copper coinage to the amount of 3,000,000 roubles. A new vote to the same effect, under date Nov. mber 30, 1855, has been sanctioned by the Emperor. A second issue of copper coinage to the extent of 3,000,000 of roubles will therefore take place at the rate of thirty-two silver roubles to the pound.

A COLLIERY FILLED WITH WATER.—On Tuesday morning, in the Shipcote colliery, about a mile from Gateshead, the water rushed through into the workings of the new mine, and in a short time filled them, ascending some feet up the shaft. The drifts, it appears, had been pushed too near to an old working at the Felling, where there was a considerable lodgment of water, and the barrier being insufficient, from the strata being of a very porous character. The workmen were employed at the time, but they had sufficient opportunity to escape, and it is satisfactory to learn that no lives have been lost. The pit has been since drained.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION.

THE Third Annual Exhibition of the Photographic Society was opened to public view on the 7th inst. The private view, on the 5th, was honoured by the presence of her Majesty, H.R.H. Prince Albert, and the Princess Alice. The collection, numbering some 600 specimens, fully represents the capabilities of the art in its various and increasing applications, and displays a marked advance upon the Exhibition of last year. The progress of the art is most conspicuous in the better artistic treatment of subjects, due, probably, to the greater facility and certainty of manipulation gradually attained to. In the infancy of the art mechanical difficulties to be overcome in obtaining a tolerably perfect picture were so great, that the photographer could give but little consideration to the æsthetics of his art. With the result, however harsh or uncouth in treatment, he was satisfied, although the composition might be bad in every respect, and the point of view ill selected. But, since artists have occupied themselves with this powerful auxiliary to pictorial art, they have brought their peculiar technical knowledge to bear upon the subjects represented, and the critic is called upon to examine and pronounce upon photographs as he would upon a gallery of water-colour drawings. Those who regard photography only as a mechanical art should compare views of the same landscape or building taken by different photographers, and they will soon recognise that the individuality of the operator is as much a part of a photograph as the picture is of the individuality of the painter. What a delicate perception of the beautiful in nature is displayed in the landscapes of Knight, Cundall, Shadbolt, Holden, Llewellyn, Delamotte, H. Taylor, and others, whose productions proclaim them artists as much as if they were members of the Water-Colour Societies! Each has his favourite tone of colour, which of itself is frequently sufficient to proclaim the artist at a first glance. One revels in sepia, another in bistre, another in Indian-ink. No less indicative of the artist is the choice of subject. One haunts the tangled copse; others the shady glen, the mill-stream, the loch, the moor, the rural lane, the quaint cottage, or mouldering ruin; another, more soaring in his imagination, mounts the castle-tower to depict the panorama beneath his feet. In the architectural subjects this individuality of treatment is still more striking and remarkable, because at first sight there would appear to be much less scope for it: but how widely different are the architectural views by Bedford, Newton, Bolton, Prout, Holden, Dolamore, and Bullock! and is not this difference the artist's individuality? Therefore, since the manipulation of the art, however delicate it may be, is no longer an impediment to the highest perfection of which photography is capable, we may fairly pronounce upon the works submitted to examination according to the canons of art.

The artistic element in photography is shown most prominently in the composition groups of Mr. Lake Price and Mr. O. G. Rejlander. Mr. Price's productions are the most ambitious yet presented to our notice. He has entered upon the task of raising photography to the rank of high art with great boldness, tact, and taste; and, if the results are not altogether unexceptionable, they are the nearest approach to excellence in this direction we have seen. The "Scene in the Tower" (No. 139) is an ambitious attempt at the composition of an historical picture, which, judged as a picture, is, to our minds, too crowded with figures, who, wanting in earnestness, distract the observer's attention from the sleeping children, upon which it ought to be centered. Besides, the couch upon which they are lying is scarcely adequate to the occasion. Each portion of the picture, taken separately, is good in its kind; but our objections apply to the composition in its ensemble. As a photograph it is remarkable, and the attempt praiseworthy. There are many other productions which place Mr. Price in the first rank of photographic artists—particularly "Portrait from the Life" (No. 133), and "The Page" (No. 147). We wish we could say as much of "The Breakfast-table" (No. 48). As in all the domestic groups in the Exhibition, the sitters are so egregiously exhibiting themselves that the pictures become caricatures, if not satires upon family egotism. Most amusing examples of this weakness will be found under Nos. 180, 300, and 326.

In the productions of Mr. Rejlander we find much artistic excellence, combined with a vein of humour that is quite refreshing. His grouping is generally excellent: the figures tell their story plainly, and they appear to be very much in earnest—always excepting, however, the "family groups." No. 4, a frame containing three subjects, is especially worthy of inspection; so also are Nos. 120 and 124. The frame No. 238 contains two subjects—"Jane and Joe on Saturday and on Sunday," which would make a good illustration to the song of "Sally in our Alley." Here the artist's vein of humour is strikingly displayed; and, transferred to canvas, this subject would make a painter's fortune. His portraits (Nos. 279 and 299) are also very excellent.

Very interesting to the psychologist are the "Portraits of Insane Persons" (No. 547), taken by Dr. Diamond. A collection of these would be most instructive and valuable to the physiognomist as well as to the artist. They remind us forcibly of Kaubach's celebrated picture of the "Mad-house." Another interesting photograph by Dr. Diamond is "A Tray of Admiral Smyth's Roman Coins" (No. 434)—the first application of the art in this direction we remember to have seen.

Among the landscape views we place in the first rank the productions of Llewellyn, Cundall, Knight, Howlett, H. White, and Gething. The subjects chosen by Mr. Llewellyn are always the most poetical presented by Nature, and he seems to haunt her most favoured spots. How charming are "A View of the River at Penllegare" (No. 468); "Waterfall" (No. 507); and the "Birch-bark Canoe" (No. 518). The latter transports the mind of the spectator to an American forest glade, so suggestive are the canoe and the hut introduced into an English landscape.

Mr. Cundall's views of "Jersey Rocks" (No. 1) are picturesque, and at the same time illustrative of science, for they form capital data for the geologist, who could pronounce upon the strata as confidently as if he had walked over them. But No. 155, "Sproughton Lock," is a gem of the first water. Its brilliancy is dazzling: it is truly a poetical picture.

Mr. Knight's views are numerous and striking. He is fortunate in the selection of romantic scenery, such as affords an opportunity for displaying aerial perspective in great perfection. In frame No. 506 is a view of "Upper Lake, Penllegare," which exhibits this feature in the most picturesque manner imaginable: the islands in the lake, separated by a veil of mist, remind us of some of Turner's happiest studies.

Mr. Howlett's views display a true feeling for that striking peculiarity in our landscape scenery expressed by the word "rural," in which wild nature and quaint art combine to form that charm which characterise English landscapes. No. 121, "Shed at the Beehive," and No. 482, "Barn at the Beehive," are beautiful studies; Nos. 209 and 456, in the "Valley of the Mole," with No. 418, "Box-hill," exhibit the characteristics alluded to.

There are many fine landscape studies by various photographers claiming our attention; but we can only point out, as most deserving notice, the production of Mr. F. Scott Archer, of T. Cadley Ponting, the Rev. H. H. Holden, Mr. Shadbolt, W. J. Cox, Sir W. J. Newton, Buchanan Smith, G. B. Gething, and H. White; in each of whose works the individuality we have alluded to is most apparent. Most of these pictures would, as studies, form inestimable treasures to the artist's portfolio; for the artist can now bring the faithful reflex of nature home to his fireside, and study at his leisure,—and such studies as must effectually extinguish the egotism of the so-called pre-Raphaelites.

(To be continued.)

MEXICO AND ROME.—For some days past a report, which is believed to be well founded, has been current, namely, that the President of Mexico has suppressed the Mexican legation in this city, and has ordered the Minister who has been residing there to cease his functions. The archives of the office are being already sealed up. The President is also expelling the Jesuits from Mexico, and has authorised full freedom in religious worship.—Letter from Rom Dec. 31.

THE MASSACRE AT SINOPE.—If a man, who saw that fleet floating in its barbarian triumph over those waters loaded with corpses, and cried out in the spirit of indignant humanity, "That fleet is doomed! it shall never wave a flag again; it shall not even have the honour of a brave defence; it shall perish by a fate unknown before—passively, ignominiously, in the face of its enemies—its leaders shall perish, its crews shall perish; the whole Euxine fleet of Russia shall perish without a struggle, without a shot being fired, and perish by Russian hands; and the whole destruction shall come within the year;" who but would have conceived him a fanatic, a man of inflated imagination, an utterer of presumptuous prophecy? And yet, the doom was fulfilled. We may idly attribute such things to chance—we may scoffingly speak of the accidents of war. But in the waters of its own admirals; in the trenches of that fortress lie its twelve thousand seamen! And, as if to point the eyes of Europe to the source of that high vindication of justice—the master of them all—the lord of the empire—the great incendiary of the war—in the midst of his dreams of conquest, was hurried to the tomb. If the scene of this transaction has been in fact of old, who could have doubted the hand of Providence?—Sermon on the Past Year, by the Rev. Dr. Croly.

Wednesday last was the fiftieth anniversary of the public burial of Lord Viscount Nelson, that memorable event having taken place on Thursday, the 9th of January, 1806.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

CHARLES MACKAY'S new poem—"The Lump of Gold"—makes its appearance to-day. We shall not detail the plot. As the book will soon be in the hands of all readers and lovers of poetry, it will speak for itself, and win its own public. We shall only say of it this week, that it is neither of the spasmodic nor of the unintelligible school, but clear and wholesome as daylight.

The announcement in the columns of a contemporary, that "Mr. Layard has another work on Assyrian antiquities in the press," has produced a world of consternation in publishing circles. "A King's or poet's birth doth ask an age." Layards and Macaulays are not of mushroom make. Mr. Murray, the friend and publisher of Mr. Layard, has been pestered, we are told, with the congratulations of his friends on the certainty of adding another cool five thousand to his account. His fellow-publishers in the Row have written from Hampshire and Hertfordshire to say how delighted they are "at the good news." Mr. Murray himself has written (so we are assured) to ask if the promised book is about to appear in the Row—for in Albemarle-street nothing whatever is known about it. The Row replies, that, if Mr. Murray is not the publisher, Mr. Layard must have been to Mr. Routledge, for nothing is known about it in the Row. Mr. Routledge is equally in the dark. The fact is that the whole story is "fudge." Mr. Layard is not about to publish a volume on Assyrian antiquities. Our friend is not even "in the press." He has been employing his idle hours of late with frescoes only. He is full of fresco-painting—but is not, we may confidently state, about to publish (this season) anything whatever on the subject.

Lord Mahon—we beg his Lordship's pardon, Earl Stanhope—has corrected three of his addresses recently delivered at Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham, and is about to give them to the public in the shape of a shilling pamphlet. We have seen an early copy of the work in the hands of a friend. The Manchester and Leeds addresses are well known. That delivered at Birmingham in November last was more properly reported, and in the shape in which we now see it has received, we observe, some of his Lordship's finishing touches. It is in every respect by very far the best of the three. Lord Stanhope, always a sensible thinker, has no fear whatever about him. He speaks boldly out on all occasions; and never more boldly than he has done on a subject now of real consequence in art. His Lordship has been recently in Rome. He loves sculpture—he understands art—but he cannot altogether "a-down" with Mr. Gibson, our great English sculptor. Lord Stanhope saw, when in Rome, the statue of her Majesty by Mr. Gibson. He was horror-stricken at seeing anything like colour upon Parian or Carrara marble. In the statue of the Queen a little colour was visible, introduced with masterly skill, but still, Lord Stanhope thinks, in very indifferent taste. "I hope," says his Lordship, "that this new fashion may not permanently invade the sculptor's studio, and that colour in figures may be left to the doll-shops." We are sorry to differ from his Lordship and from Mr. Baily, the sculptor, whose taste has too long had an undue influence in directing public opinion on this point.

The portrait of Mr. Lockhart, painted by Mr. Pickersgill (it is one of Mr. Pickersgill's very best portraits), has just been engraved by Mr. Doo, in his most careful manner.

All who remember Mr. Lockhart in the prime of his London life (not his Edinburgh life) will be delighted with this engraving. We prefer it infinitely, in common with his oldest friends, to the clever representation of him made by Mr. Grant, when the hand of death was on him. The proud Spanish look and the winning smile of the man have been happily caught by both painter and engraver.

The following verses are attributed to Rogers:—

TO AN INFANT SLEEPING IN A POET'S ARMS.
Oh! wake thee, Cherub! sleep not there;
Where passion's throes the soul deform:
So rests the seraph of the air
Upon the cloud that veils the storm.
Oh! wake thee, dearest! for the heaven
Of that proud heart is fraught with care;
Those arms that fold thee—to deceive,
For there's a slumbering serpent there;

A serpent that will shortly wake,
And o'er each flow'r of bliss be twined;
From hope her dream of rapture take,
And blight the Eden of the mind.
Then, wake thee, boy! for even now
The poison works with subtle art;
Prepared with many a traitor vow,
To break thy doting mother's heart.

The poet in whose arms the infant was asleep was, it is said, Lord Byron; the mother was—so runs rumour—Lady Caroline Lamb. We transcribe the verses to denounce them as spurious. Mr. Rogers could never have written—

For there's a slumbering serpent there.

His ear was too delicate.

The old sun-dial in Kensington Gardens, attributed to Grinling Gibbons, was stolen (actually stolen) some twelve months ago. A sun-dial stolen—*Eheu fugaces!* Some ruffians (roughs, as they are now called) tore it from its place in front of the palace, threw the stone column on which it stood into the Round Pond, and carried the dial itself—no one has told where. Sir Benjamin Hall (the Chief Commissioner of Works) is about to give us another dial. Thank you, Sir Benjamin!

Actors are praising "Ben Webster's letter" respecting Alleyne's College at Dulwich. In remodelling the College, surely something should have been done for actors. Out of that snug original £800, now enlarged by another cipher (the College has now £8000 a year), common sense demands that poor players should at least have a little.

The Prince of Wales "took the chair" the other day on a public occasion. The Prince has been attending Faraday's lectures. Prince Albert, it so happened, was unable to attend—the chair was vacant—it must be filled. The boy-Prince took the chair, and, to the surprise of many, behaved like other boys, with great modesty, and, of course, good sense.

The Kafir Journals of Sir George Cathcart, who fell before Sebastopol are in the press; and Mr. Danby Seymour, M.P., is about once more to face the critics.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH TRADE WITH RUSSIA.—In the last general "Statement of Trade and Navigation" published by the Board of Trade the real value of the produce of the United Kingdom exported to the northern and southern ports of Russia is estimated for the year 1849 at £1,566,000, and for 1853 at £1,227,000; the intervening years being marked by a gradual decline. Similarly the tonnage of vessels cleared from this country to Russia fell (Table xvii) from 407,000 tons in 1819, to 378,000 tons in 1852; while the corresponding decline in the imports of this country from Russia is attested by the figures 480,000 as the tonnage of vessels entered here in 1849, and of 410,000 as that of the entrances of 1852. Again, in "McCulloch's Commercial Dictionary," article "Russia," the real value of the exported produce of the United Kingdom to Russia is quoted as regularly declining from £2,129,000, in 1844, to £1,566,000, in 1849; thus attesting a gradual reduction of twenty-five per cent in the five preceding years, as well as a corresponding decrease in the imported produce of Russia. And thus the export trade of England to that country fell by nearly one-half within the space of ten years of peace. These general facts are not less true of the relations of France with Russia than those of England. The *Movement Commercial* for 1854—the last publication of the French Government, corresponding to the blue-books of the Board of Trade—quotes the real value of the export and import trade of France in the year 1854 at 3,497,000,000 f., or £137,880,000 (*Tableau général*), while it computes the imports of the produce of Russia into France, for 1853, at 67,000,000 f., and the exports of the produce of France into Russia at only 16,000,000 f. (*Tableau de Russie*). France, therefore, lost less than one-fortieth of her trade by the outbreak of the war with that Power. Her commerce, meanwhile, in 1854, is shown, by the same tables, to have exceeded by 4,000,000 f. that of 1853.

Lieutenant-Colonel Teesdale, who distinguished himself so much at Kars, on the 29th of September, and subsequently took so active a part in the negotiations with General Mouravieff at the time of the surrender, is the only surviving son of Colonel Teesdale, Royal Artillery.

The Diet of Holstein has elected all its Deputies to the Grand Council of the whole kingdom from the German party opposed to the Danes.

MUSIC.

THE announcement of "The Creation" by the SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY on Friday, the 4th instant, drew a vast assemblage to Exeter-hall. This grand and beautiful oratorio was never, probably, more magnificently performed. Madame Clara Novello sang the soprano part with an effect scarcely to be surpassed, even by Jenny Lind. The music is eminently fitted to display our fair countrywoman's qualities, the power and beauty of her voice, the brilliancy of her execution, and the artistic finish of her style. Her two great airs, "With verdure clad" and "On mighty wings," were received with acclamations. Mr. Sims Reeves, who had not been heard in London for a considerable time, was most warmly received, and sang with great power and energy. He was especially successful in the air, "In native worth and honour clad," descriptive of the primeval state of man, the most exquisite morceau in the whole oratorio. He sang it charmingly and was loudly encored, though we should have been more completely satisfied had he abstained from several liberties with the composer's text. Mr. Thomas, in the bass songs, supported his rising reputation. The choruses were perfectly sung, and were unspeakably grand and beautiful.

Among the numerous Provincial Concerts, those of Manchester hold a principal place. At one of them a new sacred work of magnitude by an English composer has just been produced with success—the "One Hundred and Third Psalm," a cantata, for solo voices and chorus, with full orchestra, by Mr. Thorne Harris, an eminent professor of that town. The solo parts were sung by Miss Milner, Miss Newbound, Herr Reichardt, and M. Guilmette. The performance was highly successful.

THE AMATEUR MUSICAL SOCIETY are about to give a concert in aid of the funds of "The Cambridge Asylum for the Widows of the Non-commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the British Army." It is to take place about the end of this month, and will be honoured with the patronage of the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Royal Family, and is expected to be a highly attractive performance.

THE Concerts of the PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY this season are not to commence till after Easter. They are to be six in number (instead of eight, as formerly), and will take place between the 14th of April and the 23rd of June. The appointment to the conductorship of so eminent and accomplished a musician as Mr. Sterndale Bennett cannot fail to give general satisfaction.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, BRADFORD.—The second musical festival, conducted by Mr. Costa, will take place at the close of the summer. Mr. Charles Olivier, the secretary and manager of the hall, has been presented with a gold watch and appendages, and a purse of 110 sovereigns, as a token of esteem and acknowledgment of his services. The testimonial was handed to Mr. Olivier at a numerous meeting at the hall, by Mr. Alderman Smith, the Chairman of the St. George's Hall Company, and other directors.

BEAUMONT INSTITUTION.—On Monday evening last the second of a series of vocal and instrumental concerts took place at this assembly-room. Mr. Frank Mori conducting at the piano-forte. The vocalists were Madame Clara Novello, Miss Louisa Vinning (her first appearance), Middle Corelli, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Farquharson, and Mr. Cooper. Of the singing of Madame Clara Novello and Mr. Sims Reeves it is scarcely necessary to speak. They were both in excellent voice, and were received with that cordiality and enthusiasm which they deserve. The execution of "With verdure clad," in particular, by our great soprano, was loudly encored. Mr. Sims Reeves sang Bishop's beautiful aria, "The Pilgrim of Love," in his best style; and, for an encore, he revived the once-popular song of "When other lips," by Balfie. But the great event of the night was the debut of Miss Louisa Vinning, a pupil of Mr. Frank Mori. Though very young, she is an old friend as well as an old favourite of the public—being, in fact, no other than the "Infant Sappho," who created so much sensation in London about fifteen years ago. Miss Vinning was evidently born to be a singer. It is said of her that she could sing long before she could speak. Her parents, anxious to make a display of her talents, had her instructed and brought before the public. The fashion of the metropolis flocked to hear the baby-singer; and the press published her praises throughout the land. The task, however, of amusing an audience night after night—no trifling matter even for an adult—was deemed too much for so young a child, and she was withdrawn from public life. Thus the musical world lost its "Infant Sappho," but not for ever. On Monday evening she reappeared under her actual name and by her prepossessing personal appearance created a feeling in her favour, which her performances confirmed and strengthened. The fair debutante possesses a fine soprano voice, as well as a great amount of musical expression. She was loudly applauded, and encored in all her songs; and, at the termination of "I love the lilies," by Mr. Frank Mori, she received a graceful tribute from the audience in a shower of bouquets. We augur for Miss L. Vinning a brilliant future. Among the other performers, Middle Corelli, a fine mezzo-soprano, and Mr. Farquharson, deserve especial mention. The room, which holds upwards of 1500 people, was completely filled.

THE THEATRES, &c.

PRINCESS'.—Mr. Charles Kean appeared on Wednesday in his favourite character of Hamlet. It is in this part that Mr. Kean is distinguished from his contemporaries by the evident genius, as discriminated from talent, in which his performance abounds. His Hamlet is certainly the most brilliantly effective on the modern boards, and with every fresh production of it improves in its finish and general completeness. While it is light and elegant in its outline, it is impressive and various in its details, and altogether leads on the mind of the spectator with an augmenting interest to the conclusion of the tragedy. The manner in which Mr. Kean was received by a numerous audience was merited by the excellence of his performance. The applause was such as testified to the supremacy which he has acquired in his delineation of the melancholy Prince, whose dramatic attributes are among the highest in the Shakespearean world of character.

HAYMARKET.—Mr. Buckstone has introduced another of our old sterling comedies, in an abridged form, to the modern boards—"The Beaux' Stratagem" of Farquhar, which was performed on Saturday. These comedies can be now seldom acted, the "manners" of which they were representative having long ceased to interest. But there is at the same time, a sort of idealism about them which preserved them from being merely literal versions of the follies of the time; and, as Charles Lamb said long ago, they live in a world of fancy and wit, which was as little the real world of their day as it is of ours. This ideal spicing, notwithstanding obvious drawbacks, makes these pieces indeed perennial; and thus it is that we occasionally meet with them when it serves the purpose of a management to relieve the general business of a theatre with a legitimate revival. Mr. Buckstone has been remarkably fortunate in his attempts in this way—of which "The Busybody" may serve as an example. The *Scrud* of the present comedy gives him rich opportunities of developing that peculiar humour on which his popularity as an actor depends. Nor were the other parts ill filled. Mr. Howe, as Archer, and Mr. Farren, as Aimwell, were by no means inefficient; and Mr. Chippendale, as Sullen, was excellent. A new actress, Miss Bella Copeland, attempted the part of Cherry. At present she is not sufficiently practised to play it in perfect style; but she showed an amount of playfulness and cleverness that offers fair ground of promise. Altogether the old comedy made its way with the audience, and on the fall of the curtain commanded great applause.

ADELPHI—"Urgent Private Affairs," a new piece by Mr. Stirling Coyne, produced on Monday, bears a title that explains its political allusion. The scene is, however, not the Crimea, but the metropolis of England; and the incidents are connected with the movements of the militia that may be required by the exigencies of the present contest. Mr. Coyne has shown great skill in the grouping of a series of accidents all arising during a single night out of circumstances attending militia duties, and which lead to endless misunderstandings and misrelations. Bustle and fun are the elements of situation and effect, requiring the experience of the well-practised playwright to combine and evolve with the requisite adroitness and clearness. All the points are ingeniously contrived, well brought out, and cleverly dovetailed. Mr. Wright was admirable in his "fooling," and the whole of the characters were capably supported. We have seldom seen a new play so completely successful.

The *Detroit Tribune*, of the 3rd ult., states that at St. Paul the Mississippi River was being crossed by wagons on the ice, and there was good sleighing for about 150 miles, or to Lacota, some 50 miles north of Dubuque. At Dubuque the ice was running, and the river was about closed.

Mr. Peter Benson Maxwell, of the English common-law bar, has been appointed to the vacant Recordership of Penang. The salary is, we believe, £2000 a year, with a chance of ultimate promotion to the bench of the Superior Courts in India.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

WE are once more entering on a great race cycle—the first leading event of which is the entry for the eight spring handicaps at Newmarket. Epsom (2), Doncaster, York, Chester, and Northampton. The number of horses entered in all of them is slightly below the general average; but the Chester Cup stands nearly at its old mark, with 194, being one hundred more than the Great Northern Handicap, which ought to have proved a more worthy rival, considering the admirable handicapping of Mr. Johnson and the very superior course over which it is run. It has been suggested in the great organ of the racing men that in future handicaps the top-weight should be "the raising-point," or that at least the latter should be made 9st., instead of the conventional 8st. 7lb.; but handicappers are such confirmed red tapists, that we can hope for no such justice to Job Marson, Rogers, Templeman, Alfred Day, and the other heavy-weight cracks, who are now so unwarrantably deprived of their honest earnings. Forty acceptances appear in the Burwell Stakes, and the top accepting weight is Sultan, 8st. 7lb. The number of animals, late the property of Dr. Palmer, for sale at Tattersall's next Monday, is now stated to be thirteen racers and yearlings, and four brood mares—two of which are supposed to be in foal to Teddington. Serjeant Wilkins is engaged for Palmer's defence. We hear that the late Mr. Cooke often complained to a friend that he felt ill after he had been at Palmer's house, and thought it must be "something in the soup." Palmer owed £100 at the time of his committal to the gentleman to whom this was told by Cooke, and hence nothing could induce the latter to accept a pressing invitation to dine and sleep all night at Rugeley, after he had heard it. It is now confidently asserted that Palmer was heavily in Lord George Bentinck's debt, and had been seen in his company a few hours before his death, and thus fresh currency is given to the painful report which was at that time rife in the locality of Welbeck, when the noble Lord was found dead in his father's "Flood Meadow." A notice has been posted at Tattersall's requesting all those who paid anything to Mr. Cooke at Wolverhampton to send a written statement, if possible, of the numbers of the notes, &c., so as to furnish a clue as to the amount that might have been on his person when he died. His executor and a police-inspector attended at Tattersall's to make inquiries on Monday. Only £15 has been accounted for, whereas he is thought to have gone to Rugeley with at least £1000.

Maid of Lyme has, as usual, been first and foremost among the brood mares, and produced the first of the Newminsters in the shape of a fine colt, on Jan. 2nd. We trust this son of Touchstone and Beeswing will be lucky, as the "old mare's" blood is very scarce, seeing that the French have got Nunnykirk, and so many of her other foals died.

Prime Minister, for whom £5000 guineas was refused as a two-year old, has left the turf; Sister to Kildeman is christened Minie; Bumby has leave to take in horses; and Cliffe, the father of the celebrated light-weight, has, after a long and faithful service with Wadlow, commenced training on his own account.

The only steeplechase meeting for next week is at Chertsey on Tuesday, where two steeplechases and a hurdle-race will be run. Oliver, Darling, Archer, &c., and the rest of the cross-country knights of the saddle, have very poor pickings left them now. The Liverpool steeplechase entries, however, number fifty-one, and the Warwick ones forty-eight.

Couriers are hardly taking efficient advantage of the unusually open weather, and the meetings are not so numerous as we could have expected. March (O.) is fixed for Tuesday and Wednesday; North and East Cowton for Wednesday; and Altcar, Count, and Longner, and Caledonian Club (Edinburgh) for Thursday and Friday. The ground is fearfully deep and wet, and hence very few hares escape, while the hunting studs are suffering severely from the same cause.

Lord Stamford is, as usual, at the head of the battues; and in four days, towards the close of last year, he and his friends shot 1116 pheasants and 732 hares, independently of other game. We are glad to hear that it is not improbable that he will leave the Albrighton and take the Quorn country—an arrangement which was hinted at very soon after Sir Richard Sutton's death. The expense of hunting the Quorn country may be judged by the fact that about £2000 a year is paid for the rent and keeping up of gorse covers alone, whose rent per acre is often thrice as much as that of the adjoining land.

In closing our weekly notes on the leading incidents of the past year, we can hardly omit the splendid testimonial from racing and foxhunting men, as well as farmers, which was presented in December to Mr. Lucas, of Lutterworth. Mr. Lucas holds the same position among the professors of veterinary science that Meynell did amongst foxhunters, "Orford" amongst coursers, and Sir Charles Bunbury on the turf. Lord John Scott took the chair at the dinner to him at Rugby, and presented him, in the name of 300 subscribers, with a portrait of himself on his favourite mare, a service of plate, and about 350 guineas to boot. The subscription did not go below a guinea, or thrice that amount might have been easily raised, as a testimony to the reputation he has acquired by practice, which has now extended over nearly forty years. Belzoni, the premier hunter-sire of England, was the property of Mr. Lucas for fully half that time, and was succeeded, when he died about four seasons since, by Meteor.

MASONRY.—THE MARK DEGREE.—It will be seen from our report of the proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Scotland that it has been resolved to issue warrants for the holding of Mark Lodges in those countries where the degree is not acknowledged. By this means all disputes as to the legality or illegality of Mark Lodges may be easily and amicably settled, and those Brethren who (either being Mark Masons or desiring to be so) have conscientiously abstained from joining Mark Masons' Lodges in England be brought in union with each other, should the Grand Lodge of England not acknowledge the Order as a portion of Ancient Masonry. As, however, the question is now under the consideration of a Joint Committee of the Board of General Purposes and the Grand Chapter of England, we would advise that no steps should be taken to form Mark Lodges until after the delivery of their report, which we believe may be expected at the Grand Lodge Communication in March.—From the *Freemasons' Magazine* and *Masonic Mirror*, a well-conducted miscellany of information for Freemasons as well as for general readers.

A DISTRESSING SHIPWRECK has been reported by the agent at Calcutta. An English ship, with 300 emigrants (coolies), from Singapore, struck on the south end of the Algauda Reef, on the 24th of last October, and, with the exception of eleven, all met with a watery grave.

The *Savoy Gazette* announces the discovery of an extensive mine of fossil coal at Vimines, near Chanbery.

The sale of the extensive estates of the Earl of Miltown began in the Incumbered Estates Court, Dublin, on Tuesday last. The produce of the day's sales was about £65,000.

VIEW OF HAMILTON, IN CANADA WEST.

THE city of Hamilton, the principal scene of Sir Allan Macnab's public life, is situated on the south side of Burlington Bay, at the head of Lake Ontario.

The View given on the next page, taken from the mountain in the rear of the city, has been engraved from one of Mr. Whitefield's "Original Views of North American Cities," published at Hamilton; and affords a delightful prospect of the opposite shore in the distance, the bay, and one of Canada's oceans, Lake Ontario. On a clear day Toronto, forty miles distant, can be seen from this point.

Hamilton is the chief town of the county of Wentworth, and returns one member to the provincial Parliament. It is situated in the centre of one of the most fertile districts of Canada, and is, consequently, the emporium of a large export trade in wheat and flour, which is yearly increasing.

It is interesting to notice that the site on which this rising city now stands was little more than twenty years ago under cultivation. Its population now exceeds 20,000, and is increasing at the rate of 3000 a year. Its taxable property amounts to twenty millions of dollars.

The forests of Western Canada, which were almost impenetrable within the memory of men now living, have been cleared by the industry of the settler. The war-whoop of the Indian has given place to the shriek of the locomotive. Cities, towns, and villages have rapidly sprung up, and of these none have shown greater signs of onward progress and advancement than the city of Hamilton, whose motto, "I advance," is singularly appropriate.

The completion of the Great Western Railway has added greatly to the prosperity of Hamilton, and it now possesses all the elements of a great city—which, from its many advantages, it is destined to become.

The greater part of the rich and extensive country to the west and north obtain their supplies of merchandise from this city, consequently the wholesale trade of Hamilton is very large. In 1854 the duties collected at the port of Hamilton amounted to one-seventh of the duties collected in the whole province, and one-third of all collected at ports in Western Canada.

The head offices and extensive work-hops of the Great Western Railway are located here. The railway to the sister city, Toronto, is now in operation.

As there is abundance of stone in the vicinity, the principal buildings in the city are of that material, and present a solid and substantial appearance.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE HON. SIR ALLAN NAPIER MACNAB.

This eminent statesman is the son of a general officer in the British Army, who, having served his Majesty for many years, went to Canada with his Colonel, the late General Simcoe, the first Governor of Upper Canada. Sir Allan's father greatly distinguished himself, and was repeatedly wounded—having on one occasion had both his legs broken.

During the late war, when the Americans took York (now Toronto), Sir Allan, then a boy between thirteen and fourteen years of age attending the school of Dr. Strachan, now Bishop of Upper Canada, volunteered, with many others, and marched into the woods above the garrison with the Grenadier Company of the King's Regiment, who were nearly all destroyed by the enemy. The army subsequently retreated to Kingston: where, through the influence of the late General Sir R. H. Sheaffe, young Macnab was placed on board Sir James Yeo's ship, on Lake Ontario, as a midshipman, in which capacity he acted under Sir George Prevost at the attack on Sacketts Harbour.

He soon, however, left the Navy, and resumed his position in the Army, joining the 100th Regiment, then in advance on the Niagara frontier. He was at the storming of Fort Niagara and taking of Buffalo and Black Rock, which placed the Niagara frontier in possession of the British; for which services he was honoured with an Ensigncy in the 49th: with this regiment, about the commencement of the Lower Canadian campaign, he marched to Plattsburgh; where he commanded the advanced guard at the bridge over the Saranac on the morning of the attack. He continued to serve with his regiment until the reduction of the Army in 1816; when he returned to Toronto (then York), and commenced the study of the law, with the then Attorney-General.

In 1824, shortly after being called to the Bar, Macnab established himself at Hamilton, then a village of only two hundred inhabitants, where he secured to himself a very lucrative practice, and was the first barrister who was honoured with a silk gown as Queen's Counsel for Upper Canada. In 1828 he had a difficulty with the House of Assembly, by whose order he was committed to custody, but was soon after set at liberty.

In 1830 he was elected to represent the county of Wentworth, in which he resided, in the Provincial Legislature: since which time he has continued in Parliament. He was for several years Speaker of the House of Assembly of the then province of Upper Canada; and is now Prime Minister and leader in the House of Assembly. During the insurrection in Canada in 1837-1838, and when Speaker of the Assembly, Sir Allan commanded the militia force in Upper Canada; and, after the dispersion of the rebels at Gallows-hill, he put down the rebellion in the London district. At one day's notice he marched with 1600 men to the Niagara frontier, where he remained for the greater part of the winter to repel the threatened attack of escaped rebels and American sympathisers and brigands. By his prompt action in cutting out and destroying the piratical steamer *Caroline*, he put an end to the rebellion and attempted invasion of that part of the province. For these services, so generally known and acknowledged, Sir Allan was knighted.

Sir Allan was always a warm advocate of those public improvements which have tended so powerfully to develop the resources and increase the population of Canada.

In 1834 he procured an Act incorporating the London and Gore Railway Company; which was amended by a subsequent Act introduced by him in March, 1837, and the name of the Company was changed to that of the Great Western, now known in this country as the Great Western of Canada. Owing to the rebellion which broke out at the commencement of the following winter, and the consequent long period of blight which

fell upon the province, this and all projects for improving its condition remained in abeyance. When better times returned, Sir Allan renewed his exertions on behalf of this and the Grand Trunk line, and was mainly instrumental in procuring for both enterprises the aid of the Provincial Government; which formed the chief element in the success which has attended the construction of these works, now so well known and appreciated. Sir Allan Macnab's mind was also early directed to the importance to the trade of Canada of rendering the St. Lawrence navigable

Railway, which has conferred the most important and lasting benefits—moral, fiscal, and political—upon Hamilton and upon Canada. 1855.

The above inscription is also on one side of the large Cup; on the other side of which is "Success to the Great Western Railway of Canada." Around the base of the Candelabrum are the figures of Justice, Peace, and Truth. Peace holds in her right hand a palm-leaf, on which is inscribed "G. W. R." (Great Western Railway). Each article bears the Macnab crest, with the motto "Timor omnis adesto."



THE HON. SIR ALLAN MACNAB, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

for lake-going craft of large burden; he also aided materially in carrying on those magnificent canals constructed to avoid the rapids of that mighty river, which are unsurpassed by any similar works in the world. He likewise supported with all his influence the enlargement of the Welland Canal, which connects the two great lakes, Erie and Ontario, to a capacity to admit of vessels carrying 500 tons, passing from any of the great western lakes through to tide water, and thence to any part of the world.

As early as the year 1835 he turned his attention to the desirability of increasing the facilities of communication between the western lakes and Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence by means of a railway connection. In that year he procured an Act to incorporate a company for the purpose, called the Hamilton and Port Dover Railway Company. This line was delayed in its completion from the causes before assigned; but the charter has been recently revived by Sir Allan, and the route is now regarded as likely to become one of the most important channels for the vast and yearly increasing trade of Western America.

In person Sir Allan possesses a commanding and noble aspect, and has ever been remarkable for energy of character and determination of purpose. In manner and address he is affable; and amidst the turmoil of political strife always commanded the personal esteem and social respect of all parties.

The accompanying Portrait has been engraved from a photograph by Milne.

The great public service rendered by Sir Allan to his native country, together with his untiring efforts in promoting the interests of Hamilton (now a city of 25,000), lately induced his constituents and friends in other parts of the province to join in presenting him with a handsome Service of Plate as a testimonial of their esteem, and an acknowledgment of his long and faithful services.

The presentation took place at the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute in Hamilton, on the 29th October last. The noble apartment, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, presented a most brilliant appearance. In all parts of the room the flags of the Allies were blended together in graceful festoons.

On a high stand upon the dais at the end of the room was displayed the costly plate; behind it was placed a large mirror, tastefully decorated with bouquets, and surrounded by union-jacks. Fronting this, and running parallel with the dais, was the chief table, at which George W. Burton, Esq., presided: on his right sat the guest of the evening. Three tables extended the whole length of the room. The demonstration passed off with great élan, and was attended not only by the leading men of Hamilton, but by others from a distance.

The superb Service of Plate was purchased from Messrs. Lambert and Rawlings, of Coventry-street, London. It consists of 22 pieces, with a splendid Candelabrum as a centre-piece, bearing the following inscription:

Presented to Colonel the Honourable Sir ALLAN NAPIER MACNAB, Prime Minister of Canada, who has represented the City of Hamilton and County of Wentworth, in the Parliament of Canada, for twenty-five years, by the Citizens of Hamilton, of all political parties, as an acknowledgment of his valuable services and untiring efforts in promoting the material interests of that City and of the Province generally; but more especially for the important aid he has rendered in the Construction of the Great Western Railway, which has conferred the most important and lasting benefits—moral, fiscal, and political—upon Hamilton and upon Canada. 1855.

The above inscription is also on one side of the large Cup; on the other side of which is "Success to the Great Western Railway of Canada." Around the base of the Candelabrum are the figures of Justice, Peace, and Truth. Peace holds in her right hand a palm-leaf, on which is inscribed "G. W. R." (Great Western Railway). Each article bears the Macnab crest, with the motto "Timor omnis adesto."



HAMILTON, CANADA WEST, FROM THE MOUNTAIN.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



BEAR-HUNTING IN SWEDEN.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

SWEDISH BEAR-HUNTERS SETTING OUT.

THE winter season in Sweden is the time for "looking up" the Bears. The quarters where this sport is indulged in lie some hundreds of miles up the country north of Stockholm; and latterly the game has become rather shy, owing to the frequent attacks made upon them. The districts of Norrland, Jemtland, Lappmarken, and the eastern slopes of the Dooreld mountains, afford, we believe, the best hunting-ground. Amid the vast pine forests, which cling with their tenacious roots to the precipitous clefts of these hills, the bears find a safe refuge. The houses are very thinly scattered in these districts; and occasionally the near neighbourhood of the shaggy-coated quadrupeds is disagreeable, especially in a severe winter. Under these circumstances a small sortie is organised by the inhabitants, who collect together, from house to house in the hamlet, all those who are willing to share the fatigues of the chase.

The hunting gear generally consists of a rifle, knife, and a pole of moderate length, which latter is useful in two ways:—first, to steer and push along with when wearing the tremendous snow-shoes; and, secondly, at a pinch it serves to shove off a wounded beast from getting within "hugging" distance. A sledge or two accompany the hunters as far as practicable, to carry provisions and stores of any kind that might be required; and, after the parting glass "for luck" at each cottage, they start off.

Arrived at the ground, the work is conducted in the same way as in Spain and other parts of Europe. It is generally decided by the bullet; but sometimes the bear shows fight to the last, and can only be dispatched at close quarters with the knife. Dogs are of little use, except to indicate the retreat of the game, for which purpose they are taken.

THE RUGELEY POISONING CASES.

If one-half of the dark surmises regarding the crimes alleged against William Palmer should prove to be well founded, the Rugeley poisonings cases will form one of the most appalling records in the annals of crime. The inquiries instituted at Stafford and Rugeley have brought to light several new circumstances of a mysterious character; and it is now ascertained, upon the evidence of two or three persons, that Palmer was seen in the company of the late Lord George Bentinck on the day of his death. It is also said that he had had betting transactions with the noble Lord, and owed him a considerable sum of money at the time of his death. This information has tended to heighten the excitement already prevailing in Stafford, Nottingham, and Lichfield, where the accused, Palmer, is well known. Additional inquiries have been set on foot to trace Palmer's movements on the day on which Lord George Bentinck's body was found in the field; and it is stated that there are witnesses in Nottingham who can depose to having seen Palmer and Lord George Bentinck together for some time before the death of the latter. He is also said to have entertained designs of a similar character with regard to four or five gentlemen with whom he had money transactions, and who are now residing in London, Manchester, Newcastle, Cambridge, and Nottingham. His *modus operandi* was to invite his intended victims to pay him a friendly visit, for two or three days, at a time when he knew they would have a considerable sum of money about them; and, had they accepted the invitation, there can be very little doubt what the end would have been.

Suspicion was entertained by some of the insurance-offices that the death of Mr. Walter Palmer had not been strictly natural. Simpson, a shrewd and intelligent detective, was employed to make inquiries; and the result of his investigation was the opinion that that gentleman had died from poison, and that his brother, to whom the assurance policy had been assigned, was the person who had administered it. His sole object, however, was to protect the insurance-offices against an illegal demand, and for that end he obtained an interview with Mr. Palmer, at Rugeley, where he found him at home, apparently as much at ease as possible. After some commonplace remarks, Simpson turned abruptly to the subject of Mr. Walter Palmer's death, hinting that suspicions were entertained by some that it was of a mysterious nature, and alluding to Palmer himself as being best qualified, both from his relationship to the deceased and his medical knowledge, to set suspicion at rest. Palmer replied that he was not aware of any suspicious circumstances connected with the death of his brother; that he did not think there were any such circumstances; but that, if there were, strict inquiry ought to be made, and the murderer, if discovered, punished. Simpson, without further beating about the bush, suddenly announced that the insurance-offices had decided convictions that the death of Mr. W. Palmer had been accelerated or procured by poison, for the purpose of obtaining payment of the amount for which his life was assured, and that if the claim for payment was preferred it would be met on their part by a charge of murder. Palmer sipped his wine, apparently still unmoved, repeating, that, if there were ground for inquiry, inquiry ought to be made, and that the guilt, if it existed, ought to be punished, and he hoped it would be. Simpson repeated his warning, and they parted.

The deceased Mrs. Palmer, whose life was insured for £13,000, was a ward in Chancery. During a long period before her marriage to Palmer her guardian resolutely opposed the union, and the Master in Chancery also withheld his consent for some time. Yielding, however, to the entreaties of the young lady herself, both objectors subsequently ceased their opposition, and the marriage ensued.

The adjourned inquest on the bodies of the prisoner's wife and brother was to be resumed yesterday (Friday), and was expected to last two days.

ZOUAVES MAKING THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE.—A tent-abri is a temporary affair that is spread at night and folded in the morning, and, if it do not protect altogether from the rigours of the night, at least it can be carried anywhere, and can be planted anywhere with ease. Before Sebastopol it became our business to turn this provisional shelter into a permanent and solid roof, capable of resisting violent gusts of wind, of supporting snow-drifts, and of defying torrents of rain—not during a single night, a single week, or a single month, but throughout a winter. We succeeded wonderfully. I cite my tent as a model. Two Russian gun-barrels, transversely placed from one stick to the other, consolidated the edifice, and held up the roof firmly. A wall of clay without prevents the wind from getting under the canvas. Along the outer edge of this wall is a gutter paved with tiles, which carries the water readily from the roof. We found these tiles and old bricks in the ruins of farms upon the plateau. So much for the exterior. Within, the ground is excavated to the depth of a third of a metre, with an earthen shell all round, where our household materials are arranged, as knapsacks, the gamelles, brushes, oil, provisions, the day's rations—everything belonging to the campaigner. Here, also, we sit, when we are tired of lying down. Our fire is lit in a hollow of this shell, paved with brick, surmounted with a stone, our chimney-pipe. The smoke escapes by a zigzag hole cut through the wall, and passes through a chimney-pot, or iron pipe, which Fritcher got one night from the roof of a house in the laubourg. It bears the indentation of three or four balls which the Russian sentinels fired at the prizeholder. To one of the sustaining poles is hooked the St. Gobian, that little glass in a round zinc box, where we look proudly every morning to see whether the powder is not yet blackening the faces of French warriors; to the other pole is fastened a wire, which serves as a candlestick for the stearine candles, for which we pay two francs each at Balaklava, in honour of a comrade who comes to pass the evening with us. The ground of our home was floored with pebbles; and we preferred to sleep upon this hard bed, always clean, instead of hay or grass. But what joy on the day when we cut a square of carpet from a Russian house, and carpeted our tent! All the regiment was jealous of us. Our carpet was the subject of general conversation, and some rich officers offered us its weight in gold. I dreamt too happily upon it to sell it. Such was my lodging and that of my comrade Fritcher, from November till March. It was called in the Camp the trumpeter's boudoir, and it was known far off by its proud chimney. This boudoir is very narrow, very crowded for two, yet somehow we could always find room for a friend in it.—*Recollections of a Zouave before Sebastopol.*

GENERAL KMETZ'S ESCAPE FROM KARS.—Our first news of the probable fall of Kars reached us through that fine old soldier General Kmetz. Biding in hot haste, he reached this on the afternoon of the 25th ult. The intelligence he brought simply amounted to this—that the provisions being all but exhausted, General Williams had sent his Aide-de-Camp, Major Teesdale, to Mouravieff, to propose the opening of negotiations. Kmetz's own case was a desperate one. He had been formerly sentenced to death by the Austrian Government, and had no mercy to expect at the hands of the Russians. Things being at this pass, he waited on General Williams, and besought him to accept his resignation, and allow him to cut his way through the enemy's lines. His sword, he said, was of no further use, and he would rather blow his brains out than become a prisoner at discretion. Williams, feeling how little he could do for him if it came to the worst, allowed him to leave, which he did that very night, accompanied by General Kolman and an escort of trusty Kurds. Kolman, as an officer who had held high rank in an Hungarian revolutionary army, was in the same predicament as himself. The Russian soldiers on the move at night recognise each other by a peculiar long, low whistle; and, imitating this, the adventurous little party succeeded in passing several of their patrols. At last, however, they were recognised, charged, and dispersed; but, meeting at a place of rendezvous previously fixed upon, continued their journey till they reached this without further accident.—*Letter from Erzerum, Dec. 11.*

MUNITIONS FOR THE ENEMY.—I was over to Cuxhaven yesterday and the day before. That harbour is full of laden vessels, many of them bearing the English flag. Most of them, it is understood, are laden with munitions of war, such as brimstone, sulphur, saltpetre, gunpowder, and several are reported to have rifles and revolvers on board in barrels and cases, bearing marks of contents—"Various goods," others "Sundry specimens," most of them waiting for canal passages, that being the especial route ordered for their being forwarded to their places of destination—which, there is little doubt, is to cross the Russian frontiers. Extraordinary freights are named, which these vessels are to receive provided their cargoes are all forwarded by the route prescribed. "Surely," the writer continues, "this must be known to the English authorities, as we have English men-of-war steam-vessels, commanded by Lieutenants, daily running from Cuxhaven here, when the weather permits."—*Letter from Hildesheim.*

GREEK BRIGANDAGE.—Fair Hellas and the neighbouring Turkish provinces of Epirus and Thessaly are still in the hands of the brigands. Letters from there speak scarcely of anything but the outrages committed by them, and the police seems to be an illusion in both countries. On the 10th of Dec. a band of brigands, forty-five in number, visited Chalcis at eight p.m., and entered the house of Mr. Boudouris, a deputy, situated on the outskirts of the town. The brigands, although the alarm was given, remained for two or three hours in the house, plundered to the extent of 40,000 to 60,000 drachmas, broke all the furniture, and carried off as prisoners the daughter, unmarried, of twenty, a son of ten, and a son-in-law of thirty-one years of age. They played card in the house with a judge, who was passing the evening there, the stake being the setting on fire of the house; the Judge, named Bogos, won. They ill-treated the mother, and tied her to an arm-chair, preparatory to scalding her with boiling oil, which, however, they ceased doing. The ransom asked for the three is stated at 240,000 drachmas. The chief brigand, *Archangelos*, is said to have told his captives that they had nothing to fear, and were lucky in having fallen into the hands of an honourable robber!—*Letter from Constantinople, Dec. 27.*

COLNEY-HATCH LUNATIC ASYLUM.—On Tuesday evening the annual Christmas entertainment to the patients was given in the hall of the above asylum. The performance commenced with a series of dissolving views (exhibited by Mr. W. Cox, of the Barbican), with which the inmates evinced great interest, especially with those relating to the present war. They were then regaled with refreshments, after which they were invited to join in the "cheerfulness," which pastime they entered into with great avidity, and seemed to enjoy heartily. The room was tastefully decorated with flags, Chinese lanterns, evergreens, &c.; in the arrangement and disposition of which the patients themselves had taken an active part. The good effect of these entertainments will, perhaps, be better understood when we state that, although the daily average of fits in the asylum amounts to from 250 to 300 (there are 1250 inmates), yet, when some subject of this kind is talked of, this large number decreases to fifteen. The able manner in which the general arrangements were carried out, and the good order that prevailed, reflect the highest credit on the officers of the asylum.

The position of the minders and piecers on strike at Manchester remains, generally speaking, unaltered.

The presentation to the Sultan of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, by the hands of M. Thouvenel, the Ambassador from the Emperor of the French, took place on the 29th December; and was the more remarkable that it was the very first occasion on which a Sultan had condescended to accept a foreign order.

ERRATUM.—In the article entitled "Geology in the Crimea," page 23 of our last week's Number, at second line from the bottom, the "Bay of Sebastopol" should have been the Bay of Balaklava.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

OWING to the numerous sales of Money Stock effected this week, and the prospect of a large English loan, added to the continued export of gold to France, the Consol Market has been in a state of great depression, and a fall of fully one per cent has taken place in the quotations. As the dividend payments have commenced, the supply of money has become rather more abundant. The rates of discount, however, have kept up, and the lowest figure in Lombard-street for 60 days' bills is still 5½ per cent.

We have had a small arrival of gold from America; but the whole has been taken for the Continent. The late heavy supply of silver from Mexico is calculated to have a steady influence upon the exchanges; but, at present, they are decidedly unfavourable to this country.

On Monday there was a slight fall in the National Stocks, with considerable inactivity in the market. The Three per Cent Reduced were done at 87½ to 88½; the Three per Cent Consols, 87 to 88½ ex div.; New Three per Cent, 87½ to 88½; and Consols for Account, 87 to 88½. A few transactions were reported in India Bonds at 4s. to 9s., and in Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 9s. discount. Exchequer Bonds—both series—were 97½ to 97. The market on Tuesday was heavy, and the quotations almost generally were lower. Bank Stock, 206½ to 207½; the Three per Cent Reduced marked 87½ to 88½; Consols for Money, 87 to 88½; New Three per Cent, 87½ to 88½; Consols for Account, 87 to 88½; Long Annuities, 1880, 3½; ditto, 1859, 3 1/8; ditto, 1860, 3½ ex div.; ditto, 1885, 1½; India Bonds, 4s. to 5s. discount; Exchequer Bills, 4s. to 9s. discount; Exchequer Bonds, 97½. There was another decline in prices on the following day, when the Three per Cent were, at one time, as low as 85½; the highest figure being 86½; the Reduced were 85½ to 86½; the New Three per Cent, 86½ 1/2; Long Annuities, 1885, 1½; Bank Stock, 207 to 205; India Stock, 218½; India Bonds, 5s. dis.; Exchequer Bills 9s. to 4s. discount. On Thursday, as the Bank Directors made no change in the rates of discount, Consols were firmer during a portion of the day. The Three per Cent for Money were done at 85½ to 86½ 1/2; and for Account, 86½ to 86½. The Reduced were 86 to 86½; and the New Three per Cent, 86½ to 86½. Bank Stock 205½ to 207; India ditto, 218½; Exchequer Bills, 5s. to 4s.; India Bonds, 9s. dis.; Long Annuities, 1885, 1½.

The total exports of bullion from London, during the six months ending the 31st December, 1855, including those to France, via Folkestone and Dover, were £29,590,660, against about £26,000,000 in the corresponding period in 1854. Of the above amount, £6,926,150 was shipped to India, £2,523,610 to China and the Straits, £44,980 to the Cape and Mauritius, £13,400 to Australia, Van Diemen's Land, and New Zealand, £1,931,660 to Hamburg, Belgium, and Rotterdam, £80,840 to France via Boulogne, Calais, and Dunkirk; £1,968,690 to Constantinople and the Crimea, £431,980 to the West Indies, £194,120 to the Brazils, and £4800 to Africa. The remainder (£13,368,050) went to France.

There has been great inactivity in the Foreign House, and the value of most securities has had a downward tendency. Brazilian Five per Cent have been done at 93½; Dutch Equator Two-and-a-Half per Cent, 4½; Granada New One-and-a-Half per Cent, 19; ditto, Deferred, 6½; Greek One-and-a-Half per Cent, 5; Mexican Three per Cent, 19½; Portuguese Four per Cent, 45½ ex div.; Spanish New, Deferred, 21; Turkish Five per Cent, 81; ditto, New Strip (Four per Cent), 4½ dis.; Venezuela Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 25½; ditto, One-and-a-Half per Cent, 11½; French Rentes, Three per Cent, 68½ 25c.; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cent, 63½ ex div.; Dutch Four per Cent, 94½; Russian Five per Cent, 95; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 86 ex div.

Joint-Stock Bank Shares have realised the following quotations:—Australasian, 90½; Bank of London, 57½; British North America, 64½ ex div.; City, 63½; London and County, 41½; London and Eastern, 52; London and Westminster, 49; Oriental, 38½; South Australia, 41; Union of Australia, 74½.

In Miscellaneous Securities so little has been doing that, in many instances, prices have ruled nominal. Canada Company Bonds are quoted at 124 ex div.; Do. Government Six per Cent, 105½ ex div.; Crystal Palace, 2½; Do. Preference, 4½; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 15½; London Dock, 100½; Victoria, New, 9; Mexican and South American, 5½; North British Australasian, 4½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 63½; ditto, New, 13½; Royal Mail Steam, 77; Scottish Australian Invest. ent, New, 7½; Van Diemen's Land, 16; Victoria Government Six per Cent, 100 ex div. Ashton and Oldham Canal Shares have realised 145; Loughborough, 550; Leeds and Liverpool, 470; Stafford and Worcester, 420; Stourbridge, 290. Berlin Waterworks have been done at 7; Kent, 78½; Southwark and Vauxhall, 89½; West Middlesex, 89½ ex div.

Nearly all Railway shares have been very dull. The fall in prices, however, is limited, compared with the decline in Consols. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Caledonian, 54; Chester and Holyhead, 10½; East Anglian, 11½; Eastern Counties, 3½; East Lancashire, 69½; London and Brighton, 93½; London and North-Western, 93½; London and South-Western, 84½; Midland, 63½; North British, 28½; North-Eastern—Berkwick, 66½; ditto, York, 44½; South-Eastern, 56½; Waterford and Kilkenny, 4.

SHARES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—Hull and Selby, 105; Wear Valley, 30½.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, 61; Great Northern Five per Cent, 107½; Great Western Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 85½; Midland Consolidated Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 91; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 88.

FOREIGN.—Eastern of France, 34½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 10; Great Central of France, 16½; Great Western of Canada, 24½; Royal Swedish, 1½; Sambre and Meuse, 9½; West Flanders, 3½.

In Mining Shares very few transactions have taken place. On Thursday, Agva Fria were done at 4½; Cobre Copper, 63; Tin Croft, 4½; United Mexican, 4.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE, Jan. 7.—A very moderate supply of English wheat, chiefly much of condition, was on sale to-day. The few dry samples in the market sold somewhat steadily, at fully last Monday's currency; but all other kinds moved off slowly on former terms. We had a slightly improved demand for foreign wheats, at previous rates. A falling cargo of grain supported previous quotations. We had a moderate inquiry for barley, the prices of which were steady; but malt, though not cheaper, was very dull. There was a fair sale for oats on former terms. Grey peas declined 1s., white peas, 2s. per quarter, with a heavy demand. All kinds of beans were lower, with a dull market. No change took place in the value of flour, the demand for which slightly improved.

Jan. 9.—The business transacted in nearly all articles of produce to-day was very moderate, at prices equal to those realised on Monday.

English: Wheat, Essex and Kent red, 60s. to 60s.; ditto white, 61s. to 62s.; Norfolk and Suffolk red, 59s. to 57s.; ryegrass, 37s. to 38s.; grinding barley, 34s. to 35s.; distilling ditto, 35s. to 37s.; mashing ditto, 35s. to 42s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 74s. to 80s.; brown ditto, 61s. to 69s.; King's and Wars, 75s. to 80s.; Chevalier, 80s. to 82s.; York shire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 27s. to 28s.; potato ditto, 28s. to 31s.; Youghal and Cork, black, 21s. to 24s.; ditto, white, 22s. to 24s.; tick beans, 30s. to 40s.; grey peas, 37s. to 39s.; mangle, 34s. to 40s.; white, 46s. to 48s.; boilers, 47s. to 50s. per quarter. Town-made flour, 77s. to 78s.; Suffolk, 46s. to 57s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 58s. to 59s. per 260 lbs. American flour, 39s. to 41s. per barrel.

Wool.—Nearly all seeds continue dull in sale; but we have no change to notice in prices.

Livestock. English, 75s. to 85s.; Mediterranean, 75s. to 85s.; hempsed, 56s. to 58s. per quarter. Coriander, 25s. to 30s. per cwt. Brown mustard-seed, 12s. to 20s.; white, 8s. to 11s.; tares, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per bushel. English rapeseed, 90s. to 91s. per quarter. Linseed cakes, English, 114s. to 115s. ditto, foreign, 113 10s. to 114 10s. Rape cakes, 27 10s. to 28 10s. Canary, 38s. to 39s. per quarter.

Bread.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 11d.; of household ditto, 8½d. to 9½d. per 4½ lbs. loaf.

Imperial Weekly Averages.—Wheat, 76s. 10d.; barley, 39s.; oats, 26s. 9d.; ryegrass, 37s. 7d.; beans, 47s. 7d.; peas, 47s. 3d.

The Six Weeks' Averages.—Wheat, 79s. 6d.; barley, 40s. 9d.; oats, 27s. 8d.; ryegrass, 38s.; beans, 50s. 3d.; peas, 49s. 3d.

English Grain Sold Last Week.—Wheat, 89,604; barley, 107,373; oats, 16,371; ryegrass, 139; beans, 5130; peas, 1875 quarters.

Tea.—The business doing in our market is very moderate, but we have no change to notice in the quotations. The total stock in the United Kingdom is 71,000,000 lbs., against 63,700,000 lbs. last year.

Sugar.—This market is still in a most stagnant state, and in several kinds of sugar no transactions have taken place. Refined goods are heavy in the extreme and nominal in price.

Coffee.—On the whole we have a fair demand for most descriptions, and prices are well supported.

The demand is chiefly confined to immediate wants. In prices we have no change to notice.

Provisions.—Irish butter is steady, at the extreme rates obtained last week. Fine foreign qualities are rather dearer; but English are neglected. We have a better sale for bacon, and fine qualities have an upward tendency. In other kinds of provisions very little is doing.

Tallow.—Our market is very dull, and P.Y.C., on the spot, has declined to 67s. 6d. per cwt. The last price, however, was 68s.

Oil.—Lined oil moves off slowly, at 43s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. All other oils may be had on rather easier terms. Turpentine is dull, at the late decline.

Spirits.—There is only a moderate demand for rum. Proof Lowlands, 2s. 11d to 3s.; East India, 2s. 9d. to 2s. 10d. per gallon. We have a fair sale for brandy. Sales of Cognac, best brands of 1851, 10s. 5d. to 10s. 7d.; 1850 ditto, 10s. 6d. to 10s. 8d.; older, 11s. to 11s. 6d.; and common to middling, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 3d. per gallon. Glen, 17 under, is selling at 10s.; 21 ditto, 10s. 6d.; and raw spirit, 10s. 8d. per gallon. Geneva, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 8d.

Cattle.—Heaton, 18s. 9d.; Braddyl's Heaton, 12s.; Haaswell, 12s. 6d.; Teas, 21s. 6d.; South Hartlepool, 20s. 9d. per ton.

Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 45s. to 50s.; clover ditto, 45 10s. to 47s.; and straw, 45 10s. to 47 10s. per load.

Our market is well supplied with all kinds of hops, in which about an average business is doing, as follows:—Mid and Kent pockets, 43s. to 45s.; Weald of Kent, 43s. to 45 10s.; Sussex, 42 10s. to 44 10s. per cwt.

Wool.—There is rather more firmness in the demand for most kinds, at full prices.

Metropolitan Cattle Market.—The beef trade has ruled heavy, at a decline in the quotations of 3d. per 8 lbs. Otherwise the demand has ruled inactive.

Beef. from 3s. 4d. to 4s. 10d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 3s. 6d.; veal, 1s. 10d. to 2s. 0d.; pork, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 2d. per 8 lbs., at the carcass.

Newgate and Leadenhall.—We have to report a dull inquiry, as follows:—Beef, from 3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d.; mutton, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 4d.; veal, 4s. 4d. to 5s. 4d.; pork, 3s. 10d. to 5s. 2d. per 8 lbs. by the carcass.

ROBERT HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4.

BANKRUPTS.

H. CHICKMAR, East Donyland, Essex, shipowner.—A. KESTER, Weston-super-Mare, Somersetshire, comestible brewer.—EDWARD DINGLEY, Yorkshire, coach proprietor.—R. WELLS, Kingston-upon-Hull, tailor and draper.—CAUNTLETT and R. LIVING, Camden-town, wharfingers and builders.—T. BARRETT, Harrogate, Yorkshire, hotel-keeper.—R. L. and G. D. PHILLIPS, King William-street, City, late of Brompton and Arundel-street, Strand, and formerly of Bombay, general merchant.—W. TOWELL, Bollingbroke, Newington, and Brixton-hill, Surrey, boot-maker.—W. MOORE, Bradford, Wiltshire, blue and mangle dyer.—M. R. MEASONS, Manchester-buildings, London, merchant and commission agent.—T. BIERWIN, Loughborough, Leicestershire, currier, leather cutter, and boot and shoe maker.—D. J. VAUGHAN, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, maltster.—H. STRIKE, Manchester, money scrivener.—R. GREENE, Lichfield, banker.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1856.

WAR-OFFICE, JAN. 8.

Royal Horse Guards: Cornet G. Bull to be Cornet and Adjutant.
4th Dragoon Guards: Cornet A. W. Travers to be Lieutenant.
3rd Light Dragoons: Capt. Sir P. A. Hallett to be Captain.
15th Capt. J. Young to be Captain; Lieut. Lord W. C. M. P. Scott to be Captain; Cornet R. L. Parker to be Lieutenant.
Royal Artillery: Cadets E. A. Slessor, L. C. A. de Cesto, H. Anderson, C. Trench, H. C. Lewis, the Hon. H. Hare, A. S. Macartney to be Lieutenants.
Royal Engineers: Cadets J. K. Tisdall, W. G. T. Stave, J. B. Leonard to be Lieutenants.
Royal Sappers and Miners: Lieut.-Col. F. A. York to be Adjutant-General; Second Capt. F. E. Cox to be Adjutant; Serg.-Major M. Bradford to be Quartermaster.
Grenadier Guards: The Hon. W. E. S. West, H. S. Gould, to be Ensigns and Lieutenants.
1st Foot: Ensign F. Alban to be Lieutenant.
2nd Lieut. A. L. Coussemaerts to be Captain; Ensign J. Awdry to be Lieutenant.
6th: Capt. H. E. Jones to be Captain.
7th: Brevet-Major C. E. Watson to be Major; Lieut. C. K. Mure to be Captain.
14th: Lieut. W. B. Bowler to be Captain; Ensign Molony to be Lieutenant.
23rd: Serg.-Major W. H. Smith to be Quartermaster.
30th: Capt. N. A. Eppor to be Captain.
31st: Capt. E. C. Grant to be Paymaster.
31st: Ensign J. J. Robinson to be Lieutenant; Ensign G. A. Barnes to be Ensign.
36th: Ensign H. E. Willett to be Lieutenant.
39th: Ensign F. H. Chambers to be Lieutenant; N. Gosnell to be Ensign.
40th: D. Jackson, F. Heylar to be Ensigns.

BRITISH GERMAN LEGATION.—3rd Jäger Corps: The name of the Lieutenant appointed in the Gazette of the 28th ult. is P. von Suenon, and not P. von Sheppes.
BRITISH ITALIAN LEGATION.—H. W. B. Desages to be Paymaster. 2nd Regiment: Capt. R. Crauford to be Major.

PROVISIONAL DEPARTMENT.—Brevet Lieut.-Col. F. White, C.B., to be Major.

UNATTACHED.—Capt. H. R. Manners to be Major; Brevet-Majors R. L. Ross, H. W. Meredith, and C. Hood to have their Brevet Rank converted into substantive Rank.

HOSPITAL STAFF.—Surgeon J. Davies to be Staff-Surgeon of the First Class; Assist.-Surgeon W. Sonerville and J. Duff to be Staff-Surgeons of the Second Class; Acting Assist.-Surgeon A. B. Kilroy to be Assistant-Surgeon; Y. H. Johnson, R. Hall, J. A. Harvey, J. Goodwin, J. Storey, E. W. Ward, J. Bonynman, J. Shoolbriand, H. J. Mayhew, A. H. Hileon, C. Martin, T. B. Blandford, W. Patton, and G. E. Whitton to be Acting Assistant-Surgeons.

BREVET.—Lieut.-Col. A. A. Shuttleworth, T. A. Stone, to be Colonels in the Army; Capt. H. R. Austen, J. Young, to be Majors in the Army; Brevet-Majors H. E. Burnside, J. E. Young, to be Lieutenants-Colonel; Lieut.-Colonels: Brevet-Majors E. S. Burnside to have the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel while employed in the British Italian Legion; Quartermaster T. Walsh to have the honorary rank of Captain; Lieut. W. H. Maiden to be Captain while employed in the Turkish Contingent; Brevet-Majors K. D. Mackenzie, J. E. Thackwell, H. Edwards, and Major E. Legh, to be Lieutenant-Colonels; Capt. D. C. Greene, W. W. H. D. Fitzgerald, E. Newbridge, E. N. Hiley, G. E. Westhead, A. B. Rathbone, J. Travers, H. J. Kelly, E. L. Russell, H. R. Longhouseband, H. F. Dunford, J. M. B. F. Tytler, J. Mill, C. Reid, A. W. C. Plowden, R. Strachey, R. B. Smith, C. F. North, P. A. P. Bourville, J. H. Beecher, J. Hill, A. J. M. Boleas to be Majors. Company Sergts. J. Thurburn, G. Smith, M. Nelson, Sergt. Conductors N. Doherty, K. Bruce, J. Devine; Sergts. J. Devine, D. Dowling, J. Harris, J. Ford, of the Royal Artillery, to have the rank of Lieutenant in the Turkish Contingent.

BANKRUPTS.
M. R. L. MEASON, Winchester-merchant.—ELIZABETH BENSON and SARAH BENSON, Mansfield-street, Portland-place, hotel-keepers. J. JOHNS, Hertford, innkeeper.—E. LADD, Cambridge, draper.—J. PAGE, Chelmsford, Essex, coach builder.—J. C. HERRING and W. HERRING, Sunderland, timber merchants.—C. SLORACH, Nottingham, lace-manufacturer.—W. THOMAS, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, sailmaker.—J. DEAKIN, Sheffield, joiner.—J. and E. HARDMAN and W. GARNER, Sutton, Lancashire, ironfounders.—J. HUGHES, Manchester, Russian manufacturer.—B. P. BROOKE, Heaton Norris, Lancashire, grocer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.
J. A. SMITH, Edinburgh, baker.—C. ORTO, Glasgow, hotel-keeper.

BIRTHS.

On the 26th ult., at his residence, Coe-brooke-terrace, Islington, the wife of Thomas Littot, Esq., of a son and heir.
On the 5th January, 1856, the wife of Captain Depe, Adjutant Major of the Belgian Artillery, of a son, still-born.
On the 4th inst., at Woburn, Chertsey, the Hon. Mrs. Locke King, of a daughter.
On the 3rd inst., at Kilton, the wife of Sir Henry Every, Bart., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 1st inst., at the parish church of Eithney, by the father of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. Sir Hugh Molesworth, Bart., Hender John Molesworth St. Aubyn, Esq., Captain Royal Miners Artillery, and eldest son of the Rev. Hender Molesworth St. Aubyn, of Clonsilla, to K. Catherine, youngest daughter of G. Wallis Popham, Esq., of Trevarno, and niece of Sir R. L. Vyryan, Bart. M.P.
On the 3rd inst., at St. Giles's, Chanc

EVERY LADY'S CHRISTIAN NAME

C H R I S T M A S P A N T O M I M E S .





CAFE, AT KARASU-BAZAR.—SKETCHED BY WILLIBALD RICHTER.

ROOM OF A MIRZA IN THE VALLEY OF BAIDAR.
A CAFE IN KARASU-BAZAR.

THESE two Engravings, from sketches by Willibald Richter, give a pleasant glimpse into the simple everyday life of the Tartar inhabit-

ants of the Crimea. The quiet, thoughtful personages here represented in their happiest mood, dreaming life away, like German patriots, under a cloud of their own smoke, present a striking contrast to the Russian invaders of the Crimea. The savage manners of the latter more resemble those of the Mongolian hordes, ancestors of the Tartars of the present day, who, under the grandson of Jenghis Khan, subdued this part of the world in the early part of the thirteenth century. Honor de Hell, in his description of the Crimea, calls attention in the following passage to the change which has taken place in the manners of the inhabitants :—

In seeing the Tartars of the present day, who would recognise in these simple men with modest virtues the descendants of those haughty Mongols who once subjugated a part of Western Europe? To the active life of camps, to the long marches, wild manners, and the ambitious humour that then possessed them, an apathetic indolence has succeeded, a philosophic resignation that seems to seek an oblivion of the past in the tillage of their plains, and the culture of those vineyards and fine orchards whose fruits serve to adorn the most sumptuous tables of Moscow and St. Petersburg.

There is a great difference between the Tartars of the coast and the mountaineers: the former, through their contact with the Russians, have become greedy, cheating, and deceitful; the latter, on the contrary, have preserved in the heart of their mountains the patriarchal manners that distinguish the nations of Asia. The stranger finds among them a touching hospitality, simple and unaffected virtues that deeply affect him. The best room, the most succulent viands, everything the Tartar has to offer is laid before his guest with an eagerness that stifles even the idea of refusing them; and, indeed, it would be a mortal insult if you should wish to remunerate his benevolent reception by aught save an expressive grasp of the hand.

The Tartar women, without being beautiful, have something timid and graceful that lends to them an inexpressible charm. Covered in public with a long white veil, the two ends of which fall back on the shoulders, they are remarkable for the total absence of vulgarity. We only saw at Bagtcheserai such as belonged to the poor classes of society. The wives of the mirzas (nobles) and the beys (princes) live completely an indoor life, and never show themselves abroad.

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RUSSIAN CROSS TAKEN FROM A HOUSE IN THE REAR OF THE REDAN

This interesting specimen of ecclesiastical art is in the possession of Captain Green, of the steam-ship *Bahiana*. It was taken from a house in the rear of the Redan, and was carried by a priest (as our informant states) at the head of a relief party, to that work and the Malakoff. The Cross is about seven feet six inches high: it is carved and decorated with no mean skill, although it has evidence of frequent and long use. It was carried apparently much as our own ensigns are, bearing marks of the hands and the leather strap with which the bottom was secured.



CHAMBER IN THE HOUSE OF A MIRZA, IN THE VALLEY OF BAIDAR.—SKETCHED BY WILLIBALD RICHTER.

THE LIME-TREE FORESTS OF RUSSIA AND THEIR PRODUCE.

ON the outbreak of hostilities between England and Russia, the interruption of the friendly relations which the two nations had so long maintained with each other naturally gave rise to apprehension. We were led to expect diminished supplies and augmented prices in relation to many articles for which we had long mainly depended on the imports conveyed to us through our Baltic trade. Among the articles of general utility with which that trade has hitherto largely furnished us are oil, tallow, hemp, &c.; and the increased price of these articles was very reasonably regarded as not the least of the grievances entailed by the war. There is, however, one branch of our commerce with Russia respecting which little or nothing has been said, though it is by no means unimportant as regards either its extent or its utility,—we allude to the importation of Russia mats.

Prior to the present war it was no unfrequent occurrence to see the Russian ports—especially Archangel, St. Petersburg, and Riga—thronged with vessels preparing to sail for England, and laden with cargoes of Russia mats. These mats are made of the bark of the linden or lime tree. The bark, by maceration, is separated into thin layers, or ribbons, which, in Russia and other parts of the north of Europe are known by the name of bark or bass. In England, Russia mats are chiefly used for the purpose of packing, and they are in great demand among market-gardeners, who use them for covering baskets and packages of fruit, plants, &c. On every market day vast numbers of Russia mats are brought from the country in the carts which convey the supplies of fruit, vegetables, and flowers to Covent-garden. In Russia, however, these mats are much more extensively used. Flour, meal, and all descriptions of dry provisions are transported from one part of the empire to another in bags made of mats stitched together. The boxes used for packing merchandise are protected against the rain by layers of mats. The carts of the peasants are lined and covered with them.

But these mats are not the only articles made in Russia from the bark of the lime-tree. The peasant employ the bark in the production of various objects of utility; indeed to the Russian peasant the lime-tree is what the birch-tree is to the peasant of Sweden. The thick bark is used for making boxes and trunks, and even for roofing huts and cottages. Staves for winnowing corn are also made of the tough fibres of the outer bark of the lime-tree. This fibrous substance is also much used for making ropes and cordage. The boats which carry produce on the various rivers and canals in the interior of the country, are scarcely ever provided with any other cables or ropes save those made from bark.† Some even have sails made of the same substance; and in many parts of Russia the poorer class of people use bark, instead of leather, for making boots and shoes.

It is difficult to conceive the magnitude of the forests capable of supplying the enormous number of trees annually felled in Russia for the sake of the bark. The manufacture of mats has been kept up for centuries with undiminished activity, and the mats are not now scarcer or dearer than they were at a very remote period. Another fact, no less singular, is, that in spite of the extensive export trade in Russia mats, the numbers exported are insignificant in comparison with those used in the interior of the country. None but persons who have travelled in Russia, who have seen the habitations of the peasantry, the bazaars of the small towns, and the boats on the rivers, can form any idea of the various uses to which the linden bark is applied by the lower classes of the Russian population.

In a district of Russia comprising the governments of Viatka, Kostroma, Casan, and Nijay-Novgorod, the people are actively employed in the manufacture of various articles for which the bark of the lime-tree furnishes the material. The same branch of industry is carried on in several other parts of the empire, but on so limited a scale that the articles produced scarcely suffice for the local consumption. The governments above named chiefly furnish mats for foreign exportation, and also supply the northern and southern parts of the empire. In these governments there are whole villages whose inhabitants derive their sole means of existence from the lime-tree forests.

During the months of May and June, at which season the bark is most easily detached from the trunk of the lime-tree, the villages in the parts of Russia above mentioned, are in a great measure deserted. Men, women, and indeed whole families, then repair to the forests, where they pass several weeks at a considerable distance from their homes; and nothing short of the arbitrary authority exercised by the nobles over their serfs, could force the poor creatures thus to bury themselves in the depths of forests which seem almost inaccessible. The thickness of the vegetation renders the most sulphurating at that season of the year; moreover, the labourers are tormented by swarms of insects, and they frequently have to wade through stagnant water before they can reach the trunk of a tree. The success of these tedious expeditions to the forests is often very uncertain, and it frequently happens that the labour of the villagers is but poorly recompensed. In years during which the weather is dry and cool it is found almost impossible to detach the bark from the trunk. Rain and warmth tend very considerably to facilitate the operation; and after a winter of more than ordinary severity, even a favourable summer will fail to counteract the effects of the previous cold.

Before cutting down the lime-tree, in order to prevent it drying too speedily, the labourers dig a trench at the distance of several feet from the roots of the tree. This trench is of sufficient depth to receive the tree when it is felled; and if the trunk be $\frac{1}{2}$ archins; or more in circumference, the bark at the lower extremity, being stronger than the rest, is set aside to be used for roofing. Care is taken to preserve in its full thickness the *liver*—that is, the lining which lies between the outer bark and the wood, without separating one from the other the different pellicles of which it is composed. The outer bark having been cut away, the liver, or inner bark, is next removed; and it is stretched out over a moderate fire, to prevent it curling into the tubular form it is naturally inclined to resume.

Some of these pieces of bark measure from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 archins in length, and from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 in breadth. To render them perfectly flat, that they may answer the purpose of roofing, they are kept pressed under heavy weights. The usual price of a hundred pieces of bark thus prepared is from 32 to 40 roubles. The bark taken from the upper part of the trunk, and from the branches, is tied up in bundles and soaked in some neighbouring stream, or frequently in a pond dug for the purpose. These bundles of bark are left in the water till the setting in of the frost—that is to say, until the beginning of September or October; and it is remarked that the bark, which is macerated in running water, is usually distinguished by its superior whiteness from that which has been submitted to the action of stagnant water. When, at the approach of winter, the bundles of bark are withdrawn from the water, they are placed on sledges, and conveyed to the village. Huts set apart for that purpose are heated to a moderate degree of temperature, and the bark is suspended from the roofs and along the walls, or spread out on the floor. The action of the heat causes the water it has imbibed in the process of maceration to evaporate, and the pellicles of which the inner envelope of the tree is composed, are then easily separated one from another, and each is divided into a certain number of thin and pliant ribbons or strips, called *bast*.

A Russian lime-tree of the best quality, the trunk of which measures about 6 sazhen in height, may furnish 3 pounds, 17 pounds. Including even the youngest trees, it may be fairly estimated that the average quantity of *bast* produced by every foot of lime-tree, in the government of Kostroma, amounts to 2 pounds $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

The machine used for weaving the ribbons or strips of *bast* into mats is extremely simple in its construction. It is merely a square frame, on which the ribbons forming the roof are stretched over a weaver's stay, and the warp is passed through by means of a large shuttle.

The mats are made of various sizes and of different degrees of strength, according to the purposes for which they may be destined. Some are so light that a hundred of them will scarcely weigh eight pounds; whilst the same number of thick mats made of ribbons of twisted *bast*, such as those manufactured by the Tcheremisses of the environs of Viatka, and the inhabitants of the government of Kasan, will not weigh less than twenty pounds. These mats, which are dear by reason of their solidity, are sold at the Fair of Nijay-Novgorod, at the price of 90 roubles per hundred. The mats, which are made into sacks for containing corn, flour, &c., are woven from very soft *bast*, and are of a closer texture than the mats of ordinary quality. A hundred of these mats, weighing about 18 pounds, are sold at from 50 to 40 roubles.

Such are, as nearly as possible, the quantities and the value of the mats annually produced in those parts of the Russian empire, in which this branch of industry is most actively developed. The manufacture of *bast* is most extensively carried on in the government of Viatka.

According to authentic estimates the following figures show the number

* *Tilia Europæa*. This tree grows in Russia more abundantly than any other, with the exception of the birch.

† In some parts of England ropes are made of lime-tree bark. Ropes and cordage are so made in Lincolnshire, in the Forest of Dean, and in various parts of the borders of South Wales.

‡ The Russian archin is equal to about three-quarters of an English yard.

§ The sazhen is nearly equivalent to an English fathom.

|| The pound is about thirty-six English pounds.

of mats annually produced in Viatka, and in the other Governments of Russia in which that branch of industry forms the chief employment of the people:—

In the Government of	Mats.
Viатka	6,000,000
Kostroma	4,000,000
Casan	1,000,000
Nijay-Novgorod, at least	1,000,000
Vologda, Samboi, Simbirsk, and Penza	2,000,000
Total	14,000,000

Of these, about three millions and a half are exported to foreign countries, and the rest are consumed in Russia. These mats represent a value of about two millions of silver roubles; to which may be added another million of roubles, as the proximate value of the roofing, cordage, shoes, and other articles made of *bast*; so that the annual produce of the lime-tree forests in the parts of Russia above named amounts to about three millions of silver roubles.

The number of lime-trees felled in those parts for the sake of the *bast* obtained from them cannot be less than 700,000. This seems an enormous number; but if the Government prohibited or restricted the manufacture of mats, the trees would be left to rot in the forests, for the adjacent countries are but thinly inhabited. The administration of the Imperial forests therefore adopts every measure calculated to ensure the preservation of the lime-tree forests; but lest, at some future period, they should be found insufficient to supply the demands of an augmented population, endeavours are made to limit the variety of objects made of lime-tree bark, and to introduce in all the provinces of the empire flour-bags made of hemp, as well as to abolish the use of *bast* shoes and *bast* roofings for cottages.

Linnæus, in his "Tour in Lapland," mentions the employment of *bast* for the purpose of making nets for catching bears. "In the avenues leading to the houses in Christianstad (East Bothnia)," observes the great naturalist in his diary, "nets are suspended for catching bears. These nets are made of a kind of rope, or cordage, manufactured from lime-tree bark. The meshes of these nets, when stretched out, are each about three-quarters of an ell wide. The height or length of the net is equal to the stature of a man. These nets, supported on poles, are set up in a line of 100 fathoms in extent. The lower edge of the net is close to the ground. The bear is driven into the net by people hunting him on all sides."

CHARADES.

BY T. K. HERVEY.

I.

His heart was sad, and his foot was sore,
When a stranger knocked at a cottager's door;
With travel-taint, as the night fell down,
He had missed his way to the nearest town,—
And he prayed for water to quench his thirst,
And he showed his purse as he asked for my FIRST.

The cotter was moved by the stranger's tale,
He spread the board, and he poured the ale:—
"The river," he said, "flows darkly down
Betwixt your path and the lighted town,
And far from hence its stream is crost
By the bridge on the road that you have lost;
Gold may not buy, till your weary feet
Have traversed the river and reached the street,
The thing you ask—but the wandering moon
Will be out in the sky, with her lantern, soon,
Then, cross o'er the meadow, and look to the right,
And you'll find my SECOND by her light."

My Second shone like a silver door
When the traveller passed from the cotter's door:
He saw the town on its distant ridge,
Yet he sighed no more for the far-off bridge;
And his wish of the night soon gained its goal,
For he found my FIRST when he reached my WHOLE.

II.

We galloped along through the gusty night,
My gallant grey steed and I,
When the moon was tossed like a boat
Of light
In the end of the autumn sky;
Now breasting its billows—now floating
Now lost in the vapour shroud—
Now sailing up on her golden keel
To ride on the wave of cloud.
And wherever the vapour broke, at
times,
I could see, through the rift, afar,
As if ships of the sky were at anchor
there,
Each riding by a star.
We traversed the cover—we reached
the plain,—
And then on my steed and me
Fell down the drops of the soft sweet
rain.
Like spray from that upper sea.
And I heard the talk of the tiny rills,
That never talk by day,—
And scents that the flower-cups hide
from the sun,
Were out by the moon, at play.
In the happy hush of the pleasant hour,
The leaves had a low sweet hymn;
And the sigh of the distant waterfalls
Might be heard through the forest dim.
—My spirit arose to join the song,
As a lark floats up to sing,—
And there broke from my lips, as we
galloped along,
"My FIRST is a glorious thing!"

My heart was light, and my thoughts
were bright,
As I shook out my palfrey's reins,
And shouted aloud to the waterfalls,
And laughed along the lanes.
But the sea of cloud grew dark above,
And the moon was madly lost,
And the tempest thickened along the sky
Till the golden bark was lost.
And I knew that a lower storm, ere long,
Would certainly come of that upper,
And I also knew, by symptoms strong,
It was past the hour of supper:—
So I spurred main through dark and
damp,
And the night was getting late
When the foal came down, as it heard
our tramp,
And neighed at the paddock gate.

I threw the girths of the saddle
—
And stated my steed in its stable,
And stood by the fire as a good grey
goose
Was smoking on the table.—
"It isn't the first time, by many times
told,
That, but for my SECOND," I said,
"I might have gone weary, wet, and
cold,
And supperless to bed!"

I am one of the many who say, or
seem,
That a Michaelmas goose is prince's
fare,—
And to slumbers long and slumbers
light
There are few such roads as a ride by
night.
Then, why, that night, did it seem to
me,
When my head had found its pillow,
That the mattress was a tossing sea,
And the bolster like a billow?
Why, when I slumbered safe and soon,
Did I find myself diving after the
moon,—
Or riding the clouds on a golden spar,
And giving chase to a flying star?
Why did the shifting sand put on
The forms of ships with sails,—
Or the planets swim about like fish
With lanterns at their tails?
Why did the little rills all night
Peech like so many Bunyans,—
And breezes bring on their every wing
The scent of sage and onions?
Why did I speak with a hissing sound
When I answered the spirit-calls,—
And strive through all that weary
night
To climb the waterfalls?
Why did I gallop always on,
Yet always come too late?—
And what on earth could make the foal
Set on the paddock gate?

—Oh, a ride at evening has its use,
Is a pleasant thing beside,—
But when next I eat of the stubble goose,
I'll swap before I ride!
My own grey steed lightly sit
At early tide or late,—
But when my WHOLE is the thing I
mount
It carries a weary weight!

A NEW SUBMARINE WAR MACHINE.—A letter from St. Petersburg says:—"Mr. Maier, after being refused by the British Government, has obtained great encouragement from the Russians, who have been at the expense of creating a new machine, at a cost of about £15,000. It is said to be a clever invention, and to be spoken well of by the most intelligent engineers at St. Petersburg. It is to be propelled by two screws, and steered by any point under water, where it may remain for eight hours without requiring fresh air to be pumped. The Russians ostentatiously profess to congratulate themselves that it was not adopted by the English, as it might have been employed in enabling them to remove the booms and mines they have put under water to prevent the approach of ships of war."

TRIBUTE TO THE FRENCH NAVY.—In order that the important services rendered in the Crimea by the navy shall not be forgotten in the homage paid to the Crimean army, a medal has just been struck by some French artists, the composition of which is ingenious and appropriate. The face represents Neptune standing on a rock, armed with his trident, and holding a crown in his right hand. The motto round the edge is "Honneur aux braves marins Français." On the reverse is a winged genius, standing on a terrestrial globe, and holding crowns in her two hands. On one side of the medal are engraved the following names of places, which sum up the labours of the French navy:—"Bomarsund—Sébastopol—Sveaborg—Kinburn;" and on the reverse, by way of motto, "Mer Baltique—1854-1855—Mer Noire."

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

UMBERSLADE, WARWICKSHIRE, 27th Dec., 1855.

SOME short time ago we were at issue respecting the Limited Liabilities Bill, but from the late remarks in your paper upon the Monetary System, I believe that we shall agree upon the necessity of an alteration in the laws by which it is regulated.

It is now forty years since I first paid attention to the subject, and I then formed my opinion respecting it, which I have seen no reason to change. During that period the supporters of the present system have, at every crisis, stated that the question was settled for ever; but it comes before us again periodically, as it must ever do from the unsoundness of its nature.

I have never supported the principle of paper money which was not redeemable in specie, never having been able to perceive how the quantity necessary for the circulation could be regulated; and the only difference between the late Sir R. Peel and myself upon the subject was that I disagreed with him as to the quantity of gold which should by law constitute a pound. Any one would believe from the arguments now used by the advocates for maintaining gold at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce, that our pound sterling is a natural and unalterable production; and many do not know that it was fixed by William the Conqueror at one pound of silver, which it continued till the reign of Edward I., since which there has been no pound except what the law fixed to be called a pound. It is said that it was the dishonesty and cupidity of following Kings that reduced the contents of the pound, until the reign of Queen Elizabeth; but I believe it was caused more by the increasing wants of an extended population, which had no sufficient increase in the production of the mines until the discovery of America; and though Queen Elizabeth is quoted as a restorer of the pound, when she fixed it at four ounces of silver, she really did nothing but restore its intrinsic value, if the reduced value of silver in her time be considered.

Few are aware of the pressure upon the industry in 1695, when the Government of that day called in all the clipped silver, and recoined it of full weight, thereby reducing the quantity about half; and still fewer are aware that the country was relieved from that pressure solely by the present Bank of England being then established, and issuing upwards of three millions of paper. From that time till 1785 the average amount of paper circulation was four millions; but about that period it was increased to eleven millions, and in 1793, to sixteen millions—which caused the panic of 1797, and the suspension of cash payments. All these extensions of paper circulation were depreciations of the pound of Queen Elizabeth, and before the end of the French war the depreciation of the pound was 50 per cent, as compared with property, produce, and labour; gold and silver also, though greatly advanced, not being required for coin under the effects of the Bank Restoration Act, did not advance in the same proportion. It is needless to travel over the last forty years' attempt to restore the legal pound to the four ounces of silver established by Queen Elizabeth, the six money panics during that period show that it cannot be realised. To say that it has been done because the notes have been payable on demand of £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce of gold is a delusion; and the clasp of the *Times*, about taking a cab to the Bank and obtaining five sovereigns for a five-pound note, being a proof that the notes can be paid in gold at £3 17s. 10½d. on demand, is an insult to society. Let the *Times* show that the Bank can pay one-half of its paper in gold, before it writes such stuff. Equally absurd is it to publish that the price of gold is not fixed by the law, but that the Bank only gives a receipt by its notes for a certain weight of gold. The *Times* well knows that the next minute the holder of the notes can obtain from the Bank coined gold at the rate of £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce, which is a legal tender for every payment, and by which everything is priced. The *Times*' Correspondent, "Mercator," says, that when gold leaves the country, it may be recovered by a reduction in all prices, which makes the gold most valuable here. We don't want to be told this, it is what we have all been complaining of for many years. Prices are advanced upon us by the wants of society without our control, and then the fixed low price of gold forces them down again, causing great loss and great ruin. It would be far more creditable if "Mercator" would write in his own name instead of being a sham—he would soon be answered.

The great difficulty upon this question is, that the difference between price and value is lost sight of. The price of gold is fixed by law, the value cannot be fixed. Had the price of gold not been fixed during the last five years, the large increase in the importation of gold must have reduced its price, but it has not altered in the least. As, however, the value of gold will find its due relation to other property, produce, and labour, everything except gold has, during the last five years, advanced in price about fifty per cent. This was a natural result of our monetary system, and was foretold by me, before there was any sign of it, in a letter to the *Morning Herald*, in December, 1851.

Well; but say the £3 17s. and 10½d. men—"We admit that the 1819 Bill was wrong; but, having done that wrong, would you do a greater by retracting your steps? We think the 1841 Bill should be altered, but no more." In reply to this, I say that, if the 1819 Bill was right, the 1841 Bill is right also; that panics were quite as severe and as frequent before the 1841 Bill was passed, and will be so again if it be repealed. I contend that the 1849 Bill has never been carried out, and never can be maintained; that the legal pound has not been restored to the four ounces of silver of Elizabeth, or the £3 17s. 10½d. gold standard, which were the same in relative value—but such can never be the case till some forty millions of paper-money are withdrawn; that every attempt to restore the legal pound, and every approach towards it, has been productive of injury to the bulk of society; and that our condition may be compared to a bridge without a keystone; we build the arch by a temporary relaxation, which gives us prosperity by high and remunerating prices; but we leave out the keystone which should be altering the price of gold at which our bank-notes should be redeemed—after want of which, the moment we are on the bridge it falls beneath us. Many say now that, if we altered the price of gold, all other prices would immediately rise. This I deny altogether. All other prices have risen, and an alteration in the Bank price of gold in conformity would only prevent other prices again falling to the relative price of gold.

The working of the system is quite natural, and easy to understand. Whenever any circumstance, as the increased supply of gold, enables society in this country to advance the prices of property, produce, and labour to such prices as will afford a profit, after paying the heavy burdens of the State, such prices speedily reduce the export trade and increase the import trade; the balance is gradually enlarged, and must be paid in gold, which payment, by taking bank-notes out of circulation to the amount of the balance, soon reduces prices again to the Bank price of gold as far as is supportable. If the Bank price of gold was altered by law to the relative prices of property, produce, and labour required for the good of the country (and always raised with joy when they temporarily arise) we should have a permanent high scale of prices in this country, because the high prices would be neutralised in the foreign markets by the altered rate of the exchanges. It is all very fine publishing the exports to prove, or try to prove, that the balance of trade is not against us; such accounts are a mere deception, and there is no real data for them. The simple fact of the gold leaving us proves the balance to be against us. Again it is said that the war causes the gold to go, for the exchanges are evidence that it is not the balance of trade. The exchanges are however, no evidence (see Adam Smith); for the exchanges between the other States of Europe, and, indeed, the whole world, may altogether neutralise them; and though the war will produce some effect, it is small compared with the great cause of the pressure, which was evidently coming before the war commenced. The increased issue of notes last week is too ridiculous to be worth consideration; but no issue of notes can produce any permanent improvement so long as the price of gold continues fixed by the law at £3 17s. 10½d. per ounce. The effect of an increased issue would speedily be to cause a more rapid exportation of gold, a still greater monetary pressure must follow, and all prices would become low and unprofitable.

The Whig philosophers say that it is a misnomer to say that the price of gold is fixed by law—that the gold is only divided by law into certain weights. It might as well be said that if a man hanged another he did not kill him, he only hanged him. Let these men who ought to be, according to their title, students of Nature, but are only the adherents of conventionalism, produce any man, in his senses, who will give more for gold than the Bank is bound to find it at by the law, or who will take less for gold than the Bank is bound to give for it by the law, and then I may pay some attention to their sophistries.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I will merely say that we have been sacrificed too long to such fallacies; and if we don't emancipate ourselves from them we shall become the laughing-stock of the world, and, instead of successfully concluding a necessary, just, and honourable war, we shall, merely to satisfy a herd of misers and money-grubbers, descend to the position of a third-rate Power in Europe.

Yours, respectfully,

G. F. MUNTZ.

Since writing the above I have read an account of the Manchester strike which gives ample proof of the absurdity of our system. On the one hand, the workmen cannot exist in comfort upon the wages they are earning; on the other hand, the masters are profitless, because they cannot obtain sufficient prices for their goods to enable them to pay such deficient wages. Will any of the philosophers show how this state of things is to be remedied, under the present monetary system of this country, permanently?

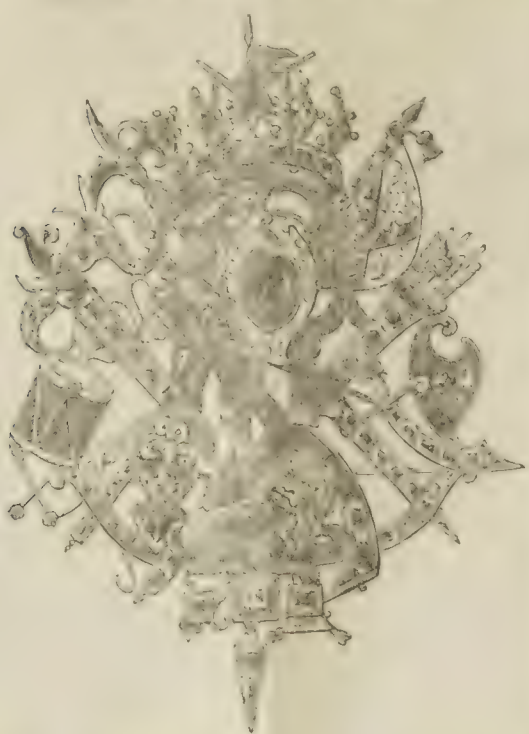
AN INCIPIENT VOLCANO.—The *Journal de Genève* mentions a curious phenomenon which has just manifested itself near Ruches, in the canton of Vaud, where three large fissures have been observed in the soil, emitting a dense smoke. Engineers have been sent to the spot to inquire into the cause.

Memorabilia, LITERARY, ANTIQUARIAN, SCIENTIFIC, AND ARTISTIC.

"A little chink may let in much light."—OLD PROVERB.

SUPERB JEWEL.

SAID TO HAVE BEEN EXHIBITED FOR CHARLES I., AND FOUND AMONG THE
ROYAL BAGGAGE AFTER THE BATTLE OF NASEBY.



This jewel, of which the above is a faithful and at the same time a spirited representation, is now in the museum of Sir John Soane, and is certainly a splendid and tasteful ornament. In the centre is the figure of the King in armour, beautifully enamelled in fine gold. He is surrounded with military trophies, surmounted by a crown richly studded with diamonds and rubies. The military emblems are likewise profusely decked with diamonds and rubies, and the helmet rich with gems. At the left of the figure is the Red Cross banner in rubies; as also the Saracenic quiver, and Turkish shield and sabre. On his right side are swords, shields, drum, &c.; the whole bound together with branches of olive; while a lion decorated with a large ruby is couchant at his feet. The jewel was purchased by Sir John Soane many years back for a considerable sum, and is supposed to represent King Charles I. defending his rights. As remarked above, the tradition goes that it was discovered after the battle of Naseby among the baggage of the King.

ARCHBISHOP TENISON'S LIBRARY.

In the course of a pilgrimage to some of the less-known public libraries of the metropolis, we lately found ourselves in the old building known as the Tenison Library. This institution, which is situated at the back of the National Gallery, was founded by Dr. Tenison—afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury—when Vicar of St. Martin's, in the year 1635. The original design of the founder was to supply the clergy and studious persons of Westminster with a place of retirement and study. "He told me," says Evelyn ("Diary," Feb. 15, 1684), "there were thirty or forty young men in orders in his parish, either governors to young gentlemen, or chaplains to noblemen, who, being reposed by him on occasion for frequenting taverns or coffee-houses, told him they would study or employ their time better if they had books. This put the pious Doctor on this design." On the 23rd Evelyn again writes, "Afterwards I went with Sir Christopher Wren to Dr. Tenison, when we made the drawing and estimate of the expense of the library to be began the next spring near the Mews."

Looking at the present forlorn and miserable appearance of the library, its volumes buried in dust and exposed to the vicissitudes of heat and damp, we are painfully reminded of the day when, under the auspices of these three illustrious men, the building was planned, and of the goodly show which Stowe tells us the books with their "gilt backs" made in his time. By a series of misfortunes this institution, it appears, has been reduced, of late years, to the last stage of decay. Its slender endowment was almost entirely lost in the South Sea Bubble, and its resources failed altogether on the expiration of a lease, the remainder of which has been taken by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for the improvement of Charing-cross. There are now no means of providing salaries for the officers or for any of the expenses incidental to the maintenance of a library, and the probable fate of an institution which ought to be interesting to all lovers of literature is to be regarded with apprehension and anxiety. The collection of books and MSS. is more valuable than we had thought. Amongst the 5000 volumes of the ordinary staple of what libraries were formed a century and a half ago, our attention was directed by the librarian, the Rev. P. Hale, to many choice specimens. The MSS. especially commanded our notice. They contain a beautiful Saxon Misal of the thirteenth century, and a magnificently-illustrated Psalter of a little earlier period. But the gems of the collection, to our mind, are the "Psychomachia of Prudentius," and the "Versarium of Fortunatus," both apparently of the tenth century, and either worth a special pilgrimage to this strangely-neglected shrine. Mr. Hale remarks in his "Plea for Archbishop Tenison's Library" (p. 6): "It seems to be a moral law that every institution, in spite of the care and munificence of its founder, should fall short of his aim, in order to give room for the vigilance and charity of his successor." We hope this suggestion may not in the present instance prove an unintentional sarcasm; but that all, at least, "within the precincts and liberties of Westminster," now that their attention is awakened to the subject, will exert themselves to design a new and more prosperous future for the Tenison Library.

NOTES.

THE EPISTLES OF ST. IGNATIUS.—Since the period when Archbishop Usher and Bishop Pearson laboured to solve the difficulties which were experienced respecting the genuineness of the Ignatian Epistles, no new light had been thrown upon the subject until 1845. In that year the Rev. William Cureton, then Assistant-Keeper of the MSS. in the British Museum, and now Canon of Westminster, discovered among the MSS. obtained by Dr. Tattam from a monastery in the Lybian desert, a very ancient Syriac version of these Epistles. Mr. Cureton published at that time the results of his discovery in a small volume, the impression of which was speedily exhausted; and in 1849 he gave us a more extended work, entitled "Corpus Ignatianum," embodying all the ancient documents attainable having relation to the Epistles attributed to St. Ignatius, in Greek, Latin, and Syriac. This important work was received favourably or otherwise, more in accordance with the Church biases and prejudices of different parties than with the real merits of the case. Among those who at that time took an opposite view to that of Mr. Cureton was the learned Dr. Niedner, President of the Historico-Theological Society of Germany, who, as editor of the Journal issued by that Society, in 1851, published an article by Uhlhorn, impugning Mr. Cureton's positions. This was translated into English, and printed in the "Theological Critic" of 1852. In the "Journal of the Historico-Theological Society for 1855," the opening number of which has just come to hand, we are gratified to find that Dr. Lipsius, after a lapse of five years, has taken up this question—a question interesting not only to the clergy of our own Church, but to Protestants of every denomination; and, in a long and learned treatise, completely corroborates all that Mr. Cureton had advanced; namely,—that of the Seven Greek Epistles commonly attributed to St. Ignatius three only are genuine; that those three have, for dogmatical purposes, been copiously interpolated; and that, for the same purposes, and by the same hand, the four others have been forged! "Magna est veritas, et prevalebit." We are anxious now to see whether the English reviewers will imitate the rare and exemplary candour of the noble-minded German.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—Henry VII. prohibited itinerant pewterers and braziers, in order to prevent thieving; and, to keep the air of populous places pure, he prohibited butchers from killing animals within walled towns. (See "Turner's History of England," p. 3637).—BERN.

ABSURD INTERPRETATION.—In Southey's "Common-place Book," we find the following amusing incident:—"In the church of St. Hilary, at Poitiers, the friends of some departed citizen had inscribed on his tombstone 'Vernibus hic ponitur,'—I am put here for the worms. The populace read this inscription in a ridiculously literal sense, and were in the habit of scraping the stone in order to make powders to cure worms. So general did this habit become, that it was necessary to erect an iron fence round the stone to protect it."—BERN.

TEST OF CONJUGAL AFFECTION AMONG THE NAZARITANS.—"They buy their wives of their fathers (as others their dwelling does), but never see them until they come to be married, nor then neither until the marriage be solemnised betwixt them, for there is a partition in the place where they meet to be married, and the man and his friends stand on the one side, and the young woman and her friends on the other side, where they may hear but not see one another, until the Cassies bid the young man put his hand thorough an hole in the wall, and take his wife by the hand. And whilst they have hand in hand, the mother of the maid commeth with some sharpe instrument, made for the purpose, and all to be pricketh the new married man's hand, and maketh it bleed. And if he letteth her hand goe, when he feeleth his hand smart, they hold it for a signe that he will not love her: but if he hold fast (notwithstanding the smart) and wring her hard by the hand until she cry, rather than he will once shrinke, then he is counted a loving man, and her friends are glad that they have bestowed her on him."—From a black-letter pamphlet of 1612, entitled "The Travels of Four Englishmen."

QUERIES.

In the University Library at Cambridge there is a volume entitled "Collectanea," by G. Whiteway. It is wholly in manuscript, and is in that style of handwriting which was so commonly used for epistolary correspondence in the seventeenth century. There is no explicit date to the volume, but, from internal evidence, it is clear that the author must have written between 1625 and 1635. Who Mr. Whiteway was I know not, nor do I know whether the contents of the volume are original or copied, but as I have never seen the following before, and as they appear both curious and clever, they may perhaps deserve a place in your "Memorabilia." As the Duke of Buckingham was assassinated on August 23, 1628, the first two epigrams, whether by G. Whiteway or not, must, according to their date, have been written within a month of his death. The last is a clever jingle on the words "Rex, Grex, Crux, Dux." Perhaps some of your readers can give information about G. Whiteway and his writings.—QUONDAM.

ON GEORGE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM, SEPT. 13, 1628.

I that my country did betray,
Undid my King that let me away
His sceptre as I pleased, throw downe
The glory of Great Brittain's Crowne:
The Courtiers' bane, the Country's hate,
The agent of the Spanish State;
The Papiats' friend, the Gospell's foe:
The Church and Kingdom's overthrow.
Here may my odious carcass dwell,
Until my soul returns from Hell;
Where, with Judas, I inherit
Such portion as all Traitors merit.
If Heaven admit of Treason, Pride, and Lust,
Expect my spotted Soul among the Just.

ON THE SAME. THE SAME DATE.

Some say the Duke was virtuous, just, and good,
And Felton basely did to spill his blood.
If that be true, how then did he amisse
In sending him so quickly to his blisse?
Pale Death seems pleasant to a good man's eye,
And only bad men are afraid to die.
Left he this kingdom to possess a better?
Why, Felton then hath made the Duke his debtor.
Georg IV. DVXEVCKInghaMIus.

ON THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.—JUNE 1, 1627.

Rex and Grex the same do sound,
But Dux doth Rex and Grex confound.
If Crux on Dux might have their fill,
Then Rex with Grex might worke his will.
Three subsidies so fine would turne,
And Grex would laugh which now doth only mourne.
Oh Rex! thy Grex doth sore complain,
That Dux beards Crux, and Crux not Dux againe.

GEORGIUS VILLERIUS.

Anagram
Regis. Volgi Illusor.

SAXON ANTIQUITIES.—Is there any Society in London which has for its object solely the investigation of Scandinavian or Saxon Antiquities?—H. D. M.S.

LESTRAANGE, in his History of Charles I., speaking of his stammering, says, "There was never, or very rarely, known a fool that stammered." Is there any truth in this observation?—As a general rule, persons who are deficient in any one organ or function by no mean excel in others, but display a universal imperfection of organisation!—BERN.

MADRIGAL AND GLEE.—Will you oblige some musical friends by explaining the distinction between a glee and a madrigal?—A. Y.
[A madrigal is for a large body of voices. A glee should only have one voice to each part. A madrigal is rather a succession of harmonies than a melody. A glee should have a tune throughout.]

TAYLOR THE WATER-POET.—I observe in a late Number of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS some notice of Taylor the Water-poet. Can any of your numerous readers inform me where his works are to be obtained? The Watermen's Company have in their hall a portrait of him, and I am desirous to present his works to them.—CARLOS LUCIUS.

[Taylor's works have never been reprinted. The folio volume in our possession bears the date of 1630, and is somewhat scarce. It professes to give "all the works of John Taylor, the Water-poet—being sixty and three in number," &c.; but there is in the collection of Mr. George Daniel, of Islington, a small tract, by Taylor, supposed to be unique, intitled "Taylor's Travels and Circular Perambulation through, and by more than thirty times twelve Signes of the Zodiac, of the famous Cities of London and Westminster. With the Honour and Worthinesse of the Vine, the Vintage, the Wine, and the Vintonee; with an Alphabetical Description of all the Tavernes Signes in the Cities, Suburbs, and Liberties aforesaid, and significant Epigrams upon the said several Signes." Written by John Taylor, London. Printed by A. M., 1636.]

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

FELTON, THE ASSASSIN OF THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.—At the death of Mr. Upcott the Felton paper was missing, and what has become of it is not now known for a certainty. A very careful facsimile was published by Mr. Upcott in his privately-printed catalogue of autographs; and afterwards in Smith's "Facsimiles of Historical and Literary Curiosities." Another interesting relic of Felton is the knife with which he stabbed the unfortunate Duke. This is fortunately preserved at Newnham, Warwickshire, the seat of the ancient family of the Fieldings, Earls of Denbigh. Ireland, in his "Warwickshire Avon," gives a representation and description of the instrument. "This dagger," says the writer, "was brought from Southwick, the house of Sir Daniel Norton, within five miles of Portsmouth, where the Court then, in 1628, was held, and at which place the murder was committed. The person who brought it was one Firebrace, valet-de-chambre to the Duke, and who was ancestor of the late Sir Cordel Firebrace, Bart.: it was brought to the Lady Susanna Villiers, sister to the Duke, who was then married to Sir William Fielding, afterwards the first Earl of Denbigh, and ancestor to the present Earl. The length of the dagger is eight inches, the blades nearly four and a half; the breadth of it near the handle, which is of ivory, one inch and a half; the inner sides of the blades and handle are flat, and move on two small pivots, which give firmness to the gripe when the blades are opened." There are two different accounts as to the manner in which Felton became possessed of this knife. Wotton, in his "Short View of the Life and Death of the Duke of Buckingham" (4to, 1642), says:—"In a bye cutler's shop on Tower-hill he bought a tenpenny knife (so cheap was the instrument of this great attempt), and the sheath thereof he sewed to the lining of his pocket, that he might at any moment draw forth the blade alone with one hand, for he had maimed the other." The historians of Sheffield say:—"In 1626 Thomas Wild, cutler, living in the Crooked-bill-yard, High-street, made Lieutenant Felton the knife with which he stabbed the Duke of Buckingham. The knife was found in the Duke's body, and had a corporation mark upon it, which led to the discovery of the maker, who was immediately taken to the Earl of Arundel's house in London, when he acknowledged the mark was his, and that he had made Lieutenant Felton two such knives when he was recruiting at Sheffield, for which he charged him tenpence. The Earl was well satisfied with the truth of Wild's testimony, and ordered him to be paid the expenses of his journey home."—EDWARD F. RIMBAULT.

BEES.—I beg to inform "H. L. C." that a still more curious superstition than the one he mentions prevails with us. When the head of a family dies who keep bees, after the friends return from the funeral one of the family goes into the garden and gives the bees a taste of everything taken at the funeral—such as wine, cake, cheese, ale, and even tobacco; for it is believed that without this mummery the bees will all die. I should feel obliged for any information as to the origin of this silly procedure.—JOHN WETHERALL, High Consellisle, Durham.

"INTONING" THE CHURCH SERVICE.—Your correspondent who inquires about the authority for "intoning" has fallen into a mistake as to the use of the term. There are two ways of performing Divine service. 1. It may be "said" on one note, which we now call "saying in monotone;" or, 2. It may be "sung," i.e. with inflections, as in cathedrals—to which mode the modern term "intoning" properly belongs. Marbeck's "Common Praier, Noted" is, I imagine, the best evidence of the Church's intension in the matter, as it was put forth by authority immediately on the publication of the Prayer-Book itself.—PRESBYTER.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. L. Kensington, E. P. Margaret, Wismore, T. H. A subscriber, Charlotte, Veritas, A. Wilson, M. C. H., H. H. H., Devon, Antislavery, Anonymous, East Finchley, Acantha, Warwickshire, J. H. F. de R., Lizzie, H. C. D., Isle of Wight, J. C. Skipton, Yorkshire, Richard Steele, W. Jones, J. Bingham, E. P., T. Buckton, Lechliffe, A. E. R., J. T. G. Devon, Amelia, W. J. Finks, T. Wrighton, W. W., E., H. W., A. Lott Cook, receive with thanks.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

LEX.—THE REVISION OF THE CHESS RULES.—The statement in question must have arisen from a total misapprehension of the whole matter. The facts are simply these:—At the particular request of the members of the Northern and Midland Counties Chess Association, assembled at Manchester in 1853 Mr. S. autumn undertook, in conjunction with Messrs. J. Welch and Heydebrandt der Laza, to prepare a revised code of laws for Chess play. At the meeting of this Association at Leamington, last year, under the presidency of Lord Lytton, an epitome of the new rules proposed by Messrs. Jacobisch, Heydebrandt, and Staunton was read; and, after some discussion upon controverted points, it was resolved that a committee be formed to confer with Mr. S. upon his and his colleagues' new rules, and upon the best mode of making those rules public. The committee had one meeting (not several, as stated), and, after hearing an abstract of the revised laws which had been prepared by Mr. Staunton, they unanimously agreed that it was highly expedient Mr. S.'s new code of regulations, accompanied by explanatory extracts from the treatises of his colleagues, NM. Jacobisch and Heydebrandt, should be forthwith printed; and that the new rules should be finally submitted to the Association at the next meeting in 1854.

J. KNIGHT; C. S., LEICESTER.—Your Solutions of No. 617 are correct; but were not sent in time for notice in due course.

C. W., SUNBURY; and others.—The fault in Enigma No. 560, we find, was in misplacing the White King and Queen. Set up the men thus:—White: K at Kt 7th, Q at Q 4th, B at K 1st and Q 1st, P's at K 2nd, K 3rd, and Q 3rd. Black: K at K 1st, B at K 1st, Q at Q 2nd, K at Q 4th and Q 5th; P's at K 5th, K 6th, and Q 6th. White to play, and mate in four moves.

ONE WHO WISHES, &c.—Learn the moves of some friend, and, when thoroughly versed in them, procure the "Chess-Players' Handbook," published by House, or any other elementary treatise on the game.

SUBSCRIBER, C. W., and others.—Problem No. 613. The Solution of this Problem was inadvertently omitted. It is as follows:—

WHITE. 1. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 2. B to K 5th (best) 3. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 4. B to K 4th—And Mate next move.

BLACK. 1. B to K 5th 2. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 3. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 4. B to K 4th—And Mate next move.

DERBYSHIRE, H. L. Edebahton, ALBERT, S. H., STELL, BUSHLEY, and others.—Problem No. 618. The only solution of this stratagem we believe to be as follows:—

WHITE. 1. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 2. B to K 5th (best) 3. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 4. B to K 4th—And Mate next move.

BLACK. 1. B to K 5th 2. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 3. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 4. B to K 4th—And Mate next move.

Q. Sebastopol.—1. See our Number for Dec. 1st, 1855. 2. Your solution is the true one. F. R. Norwich.—Quite right. We have made the correction above.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 618, by S. T. F., Digby, Merchant Taylors' Boy, M. P., Rusticus, D. D., Miles, P. T. W., Cantab, Huger, Omicron, H. L., R. P. W., A. Z., Lynx, Levi, Dunsdale, John Dory, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 619, by Derwent, Ernest, T. Simpson, C. W. of Sunbury, Trinculo, Alpha, Veritas, Clivia, W. G. F., Argus, M. P., Medicus, Zonave, Mole, Omicron, Morosille, St. George's, H. P., G. W. M., Persius, Lux, N. D., are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS, by Derwent, Lex, Philip Bushley, M. P., Cayx, Cerberus, Alpha B. A., Old Fiddle, Willy, N. T., Vernon, Major B., are correct.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 619.

WHITE. 1. Kt to Q 5th (dis. ch) 2. Q to K 5th (ch) 3. Kt to K 5th (ch) 4. B takes P (best)

BLACK. 1. Kt to K 5th (best) 2. Kt to K 5th (ch) 3. Kt to K 5th (ch) 4. B takes P (best)

WHITE. 1. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 2. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 3. Kt to Q 5th (ch) 4. B takes P (best)

BLACK. 1. Kt to K 5th (best) 2. Kt to K 5th (ch) 3. Kt to K 5th (ch) 4. B takes P (best)

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THE FETE OF NOTRE DAME DEL PILAR, AT SARAGOSSA.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE FETE OF NOTRE DAME DEL PILAR.

THE city of Saragossa (written in Spanish, Zaragoza) is situated upon the banks of the Ebro. It is the general opinion that the foundation of the present city was contemporary with that of Salsuba—a Phœnician colony, which preserved its mother-tongue and manners up to the time of the Roman invasion. By command of the Emperor Augustus it was re-peopled, enlarged, and fortified, and honoured with the name of Cæsar Augusta, whence the modern corruption—Saragossa.

Originally conquered by the Sueves, and afterwards by the Goths, Saragossa at length, in the year 712, yielded to the arms of Zari, the conqueror of Seville and Murcia. Subsequently the city fell into the hands of the Caliphs of Africa, who entrusted it to governors chosen by themselves.

A certain Prefect of Abdelerhaman wishing to become independent of the Caliph, sent an envoy to Charlemagne, offering him the suzerainty of Saragossa on condition that he should remain Governor. The Emperor accepted the proposal, landed in Spain with a large army, and took possession of the city.

The different accounts of the conduct of Charlemagne with respect to Saragossa given by the historians of France and Spain render it somewhat difficult to ascertain the actual truth. The only point on which they all agree is that he left Saragossa to the dominion of the Arabs; and that, in returning to France, his army was defeated in the defiles of Roncesvaux by a body of Gascons.

The gates of the city were at length thrown open to Alphonse, surnamed the Warrior, who assumed the crown, and pronounced Saragossa to be the capital of the kingdom of Aragon.

The union of Castile and Aragon, in the fifteenth century, by the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, eclipsed the splendour of Saragossa by reducing it to a provincial town. Nevertheless, the *fueros* or privileges annexed to the crown of Aragon kept it respectable. The *Justicias Mayores*, or first magistrates, exercised irresponsible authority, and became formidable opponents to the House of Austria. It is in this manner that Don Juan de Lanuza, Justicia Mayor of Aragon, at the end of the sixteenth century, resisted the pretensions of Philippe II. But that Sovereign, considering that there ought to be no bounds to his authority, sent disguised troops into Aragon, caused Don Juan to be arrested, and finally had him beheaded publicly in the principal square. The inhabitants, dismayed by this act of rigour, lost all power of resistance, and scarcely bestirred themselves for the preservation of their ancient privileges. Thus were destroyed the preponderance and consideration of the venerable city of Saragossa.

The conduct of the inhabitants of Saragossa in 1808 is well known. Not till half of their city was levelled to the ground, and half of their number buried beneath its ruins, did this noble population acknowledge themselves defeated. At length, however, on the 21st of January, 1808, the French entered the town in triumph, stumbling over piles of corpses and wading in pools of blood. Posterity will pay a just tribute to their valour and patriotism, and will remark with astonishment that the best legions of France, commanded by one of its best Generals, were employed in attacking, during a whole night and a day, a town having scarcely any bulwarks but the breasts of its defenders, and were at length compelled to besiege, one after another, the private dwelling-houses of that noble People.

The environs of Saragossa are more fertile and picturesque than those of most of the cities in the interior of the Peninsula. The situation of the capital of Aragon is, in fact, magnificent; it stands in the midst of a luxuriant plain, watered by the winding river Ebro. In spite of the traditional aversion to trees in Spain numerous elms and poplars may be seen in the outskirts of the city, forming stately avenues, and inclosing gardens *aux mille fleurs*.

The city of Saragossa is of great extent, but its population is comparatively small, numbering about sixty thousand. It consists, for the most part, of narrow, unpaved, dusty streets. The Calle del Coso is the most elegant thoroughfare, and is the fashionable promenade of the town. The houses, though regular, are old and rude. The balconies, in which the inhabitants spend almost all their time, are supported by whitewashed walls, and are covered with flower-pots and climbing plants.

The inhabitants of Saragossa are—like Spaniards in general—sober, brave, and honest, though somewhat proud and reserved. The men are generally large, robust, well-built, and capable of enduring great fatigue. It is Aragon that supplied the celebrated infantry, which were surnamed the Invincible before the defeat of Rocroi. That which distinguishes them from the rest of their race is an obstinacy and a perseverance which nothing can subdue. Aragonese have been represented in pictures in the attitude of attempting to hammer nails with their heads, in order to symbolise the tenacity to which we refer, and which has become as proverbial in Spain as that of the Bretons in France.

The image of Notre Dame del Pilar is as it were the palladium of the city of Saragossa. The inhabitants hold of old the solemn words resounding in the church: "Notre Dame del Pilar is among you;—it is she who requires your lives. Prepare yourselves for glorious death!" Drunk with enthusiasm, they saw death approach, and went to meet it, singing in a joyful voice to the sound of their guitars:—

La Virgen del Pilar dice,
Yo no quiero ser francesa;
Mas quiero ser capitana
De la tropa Aragonesa.
[Notre Dame del Pilar says,
"I will not be a French lady;
But I will be the captain
Of the troops of Aragon"]

There are individuals in Saragossa who, after reading translations from the French Free-thinkers, will declare that they do not believe in God, but who will not suffer the least word of unbelief or disrespect to be coupled with the name of Notre Dame del Pilar.

The church of Notre Dame del Pilar is a noble edifice, 500 feet in height, with three spacious naves, separated by pillars supporting seven arches, on each side. It may be said with propriety that all the arts have been united to decorate the interior of this beautiful building. Marble rare and choice, gold and silver ornaments of unrivalled workmanship, combine to render it one of the most imposing spectacles in Saragossa. Statues, bas-reliefs, cornices, carvings, and paintings are to be seen on all sides. The Chapel, which is entirely constructed in marble and rare jasper-stone, is filled with imitations of legs and arms wrought in gold and silver—presented to the Virgin by the countless invalids and decrepit persons who believe themselves to have been cured by her. Numbers of lamps and wax candles burn all day long, and produce a magnificent illumination. The radiance which is cast around the statue of the Virgin renders it sometimes invisible. Like the sun, surrounded by its beams, the inspired figure of the Goddess—for Goddess she is in the eyes of the Spaniards—stands enveloped in glory. Upon her head is a golden crown, and round her arms and at her feet bracelets, necklaces, garlands of gold, diamonds, and precious stones—the offerings of her devotees—the whole valued at several millions of francs. The image itself is of wood, but it has entirely disappeared in the coating of jewels and gold with which it is laden.

It is in front of the altar which supports the pedestal that the annual gathering takes place: deaf, dumb, lame, blind, rich, poor—persons from all parts of Spain—assemble to do honour and render thanks to the Virgin. The worshippers raise their arms and fold them in the shape of a cross, praying and chanting devoutly.

The procession is led by priests with long loose gowns bespangled with gold. After them come the military authorities; then the municipality, escorted by a legion of Alguazils, dressed in black doublets, with small steel swords; then priests, carrying wax candles, and chanting in Latin the praises of the Virgin; then the ecclesiastical dignitaries, dressed in mantles of embroidered silk; then prelates, bearing pavilions of silk beautifully ornamented and surmounted by a cross. Lastly comes the statue of the Virgin, supported on the traditional pillar and enveloped in clouds of incense. The procession terminates with the Grand Sacrament.

The accompanying illustration of this imposing scene was drawn by the late M. Valentin, and derives additional interest from being the last work of that distinguished artist.

RARE BOOKS.—A sale of rare books has just been terminated at Paris, at which some very curious works changed hands. A manuscript of the fifteenth century, "L'Annoire," with a calendar in French, handsomely bound and adorned with illuminated figures, brought not less than 800*fr.*; two other similar works of the same period were sold for 455*fr.* and 400*fr.*; the "Livre de l'Ordre des tres chrestiens Rois de France, Loys XI, le Ponceur de Saint Michel," an octavo, 1517, bound, 500*fr.*; the "Roman de la Rose," revised and corrected, by Clement Marot (Paris, 1529) octavo, 250*fr.*; the "Soleur d'Honneur" (Paris, 1519), on which are represented crests, the attributes of Diana of Poitiers, 950*fr.*; the "Loup Ravissant," in twelve chapters, published in 1526, 255*fr.*; the "Recueil de plus de 400 belles Chansons spirituelles," composed against the rebels of the King Charles IX., the only copy known, 315*fr.*; the "Guerre des Masles contre les Femelles," in three dialogues, on the prerogatives and dignity of the two sexes (Paris, 1533), 131*fr.*; and lastly, the "Sicile d'Ord" (Paris, 1521), a beautiful copy of a very rare book, written in verse, 300*fr.*

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

SOME years have elapsed since men of sagacity and foresight predicted the speedy advent of a railway heptarchy, and it is now proposed to amalgamate all the lines under a single directory. Rival companies, each desirous of monopoly, have so stimulated competition that, in spite of an annually-growing traffic, dividends have fallen to an unremunerating scale, while, to execute extension lines, a pernicious system of preference shares has been generally introduced. Cases of gross, and even corrupt, mismanagement have been proved; and, in some instances, truth has been concealed from shareholders by the payment of profits out of capital. When it is considered that the total amount of money authorised to be raised by railway companies, by shares and on loan, to the end of the year 1854, amounted to £363,106,336, of which £286,068,794 had been raised, and that the balance of £87,037,542 is nearly all absorbed at the present date, except where new projects have been abandoned, the gigantic magnitude of these undertakings must forcibly strike the most cursory observer. At the end of 1854 the total length of lines authorised by Parliament amounted to 13,983 miles; but of this 1177 miles were abandoned by subsequent Acts, or by warrant under the authority of the Commissioners of Railways, and consequently, there remain 12,806 miles for which the Parliamentary powers which were obtained have not been repealed. Of these, 8054 miles were open at the end of 1854; and 4752, which have received the authority of Parliament, remained to be opened since that date. These figures exhibit the actual dimensions of this comparatively modern system of transit and locomotion.

The benefits arising to the whole community from the substitution of iron for earth roads are too palpable to require comment, for you may now travel for less per mile in a first-class carriage than you paid a portboy in the times that are past, and fly over forty miles where you crawled over eight. It might have been presumed that an enlightened Government would never have thrown any impediment in the way of such truly national undertakings, or permitted the projectors to be mulcted in enormous sums of money before they placed a brick or dug a turf; yet it appears from the Return to the Order of the House of Commons, moved for by Mr. Haddfield (Paper 469), and printed 6th August, 1855, that the preliminary expenses paid by 160 companies amounted to £14,086,110 14*s.* 5*d.*; while 43 companies have not given in any return.

The details of railway statistics are very curious and interesting, and as the following figures are taken from the Parliamentary Report every dependence may be placed on their fidelity. Of the 8054 miles open for traffic at the close of last year, there were in England 6114 miles; in Scotland, 1043; in Ireland, 897. In England 5261 miles were constructed on the principle of the narrow gauge, 647 on that of the broad gauge, and 206 on the mixed; in Scotland the narrow gauge alone exists; in Ireland, with the exception of eight miles, the Irish gauge is used.

In the three kingdoms there are 114 companies having single lines, extending over 1962 miles, but several of these may be expected to become double in due season.

In 1854 on the lines opened for traffic, 90,409 persons were employed, being an average of 11.59 individuals per mile; and there were 2410 persons.

The total number of passengers conveyed on railways, in 1854, amounted to 111,206,707, and the total receipts from all sources of traffic amounted to £20,215,724. The number of passengers conveyed per mile, was 14,160. This refers to the three kingdoms.

The passenger traffic on the English lines alone is put down at 92,346,149, or at the rate of 15,487 persons per mile; and the receipts from them yielded £7,896,402, or £1324 per mile. The proportion of each class is thus distinguished:—first, 13.3 per cent; second, 36 per cent; third, 50.7 per cent.

In Scotland the passengers numbered in 1854, 11,949,888, or 11,725 persons per mile, and the receipts were £742 per mile. In Scotland, first class, 11.3 per cent; second, 15.9; third, 72.8; a very different scale of proportion from that which obtains in England.

In Ireland the number of passengers amounted to 6,911,170, the ratio per mile being 7085 individuals. Of these 13.3 per cent were first class; 39.8 per cent, second; and 46.8, third: a small number were not appointed.

"As regard the returns of Great Britain and Ireland, of the 111,206,707 conveyed, it appears that 14,517,461 were first-class passengers, 37,930,655, second-class, and 58,732,048 third-class, there being 26,543 not apportioned into classes; and of the £9,174,945 received from passengers £2,738,458 was derived from first-class passengers, £3,264,545 from second-class, and £2,999,466 from third-class passengers; a sum of £172,478 not being apportioned into classes. Although the relative proportions of each class of traffic has not varied much, yet a slight increase may be observed in the proportionate receipts for third-class traffic, and a slight decrease in the proportionate receipts for second-class traffic."

The Goods traffic is an important item in railway receipts, not only as a source of income to the several companies, but as indicating, in this channel of transit, the progress or decline of internal trade. The whole amount received through this department in 1854 was £11,040,779. Comparing the years 1853 and 1854, the increase of the latter over the former was 16 per cent; the same results appear in Scotland, while the increase has been 20 per cent. In 1849 the revenue from the goods traffic was only £5,528,696; and it is gratifying to remark that while railway lines have increased in length since that date 49.6 per cent, the goods traffic has increased 99.67 per cent—the receipts per mile having been £2115 in 1849, and £2576 in 1854. Another point is worthy of note. In 1849 the passenger traffic yielded 53.17, and the goods traffic 46.83, in each £100 received, but these relative proportions were reversed in the year 1854, for the receipts from passengers declined to 45.34 per cent, while those from goods rose 54.66 per cent.

The working expenses on railways average 45 per cent on the gross receipts, the proportion being in England 45 per cent, 43 per cent in Scotland, and 46 per cent in Ireland. This expenditure is subdivided under the following heads:—

Maintenance of Way in England and Ireland	14.5 per cent.
" Scotland	15.9 "
" Ireland	14.6 "
Cost of Locomotive Power in England and Wales; including expense of rolling stock	39.7 "
" Scotland	42.9 "
" Ireland	44.3 "
Traffic charges in England and Wales	26.1 "
" Scotland	20.5 "
" Ireland	23.4 "
Miscellaneous expenses in England, police, watchmen, &c.	11.6 "
" Scotland	16 "
" Ireland	14.6 "
The rates and Government duty in England	8.1 "
" Scotland	4.7 "
" Ireland	2.6 "

(There is no passenger traffic in Ireland.)

Expenditure per mile by trains run in England	31.28 <i>d.</i>
" Scotland	28.42 <i>d.</i>
" Ireland	29.18 <i>d.</i>
Receipts in England per mile	68.82 <i>d.</i>
" Scotland	59.33 <i>d.</i>
" Ireland	61.19 <i>d.</i>

One of the most important points in these statistics is the rate of profit which results from railway enterprise as a whole; and here must be distinguished the dividends on the whole of the ordinary share capital from those on preference shares and loans. The former stand thus in the subjoined years:—

1849	1.83	1852	2.40
1850	1.83	1853	3.05
1851	2.44	1854	3.39

The preference shares yield an average dividend of five per cent. The money loaned has produced 4.27 per cent.

No accidents are more frightful to contemplate than those which happen on railways; but, when facts are calmly pondered over by the light of experience, the travelling public may dismiss their fears. Compared to the loss of life or injury to persons by the old system of coaching, safety on the iron road becomes almost absolute; and the loss of life in a single emigrant ship far exceeds all the destruction caused in a year on all the lines. In England alone, in 1854, the railways carried 92,346,149 passengers, and the total number killed was only 180 persons. Of these only nine met their death by causes beyond their own control. Thirteen passengers were killed or wounded by their own indiscretion. The remainder were servants of the companies, or of contractors, who perished or were injured either unavoidably or from their own imprudence, and trespassers killed or hurt while rashly crossing or walking on the rails. For every million of passengers conveyed, the percentage of those killed or injured in the three kingdoms, in 1854, amounts in England to .09 killed, and 3.08 injured; in Scotland—killed, 0.16; injured, 3.51; in Ireland—killed, .14; injured, .57. These figures ought to disarm the timid traveller of undue fears; but, of course, they ought not to relax railway vigilance.

As to a very recent proposition to amalgamate all the existing companies, and thus put an end to the competition of rival lines, it is obvious that such a plan would place the public at the mercy of the directory, and perhaps create a power to be wielded at Parliamentary elections incompatible with our free Constitution. But a surely some remedy must be sought for the evils of a system which has absorbed as much capital as amounts to about one half of the National Debt. Much evil has been already inflicted of a permanent character, now irremediable, and original subscribers may never be placed on the same footing as those who came later into the enterprise and hold preference shares. On the other hand, much future evil may be avoided by more stringent regulations for enforcing personal instead of divided responsibility.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF CRONSTADT.—The nomination of Prince Menshikoff to the Governorship of Cronstadt is understood in St. Petersburg to have been the direct consequence of the untiring efforts of the Grand Duke Constantine in every possible direction to bring forward the old Russian party into an all-absorbing prominence: it is traced to him also that not only in this instance the name of Menshikoff takes the place of Lurke, but those of Delu, Berch, and Kleimichel were set aside for Novosilski, Metlin, and Tschewkin. The only Commanders that have in this war received the Order of St. George, Second Class, besides Mouraviev (an especial favourite with that party), are Bebutoff and Nachimoff, and of all three it is understood that they were strongly recommended for it by the Grand Duke Constantine. The only exception to the all-engrossing old Russian influence in the nomination to place is the choice of Lieutenant-General Baron Meyendorff, the brother of the late Minister in Berlin and Vienna, to be Master of the Horse and High Chamberlain of the Imperial Court. It is probable that, in the matter of Court officers, this zealous champion of the old Russian party, the Grand Duke Constantine, is willing to accord to the so-called German party some glimpses of Imperial favour, in recognition of their superior intelligence and observance of the amenities of life, &c. The distinction conferred upon Prince Menshikoff in confiding the defence of Cronstadt to him, which is virtually putting into his keeping the keys of St. Petersburg, is a conclusive refutation of the many stories that were current at the time of his retirement of his having fallen into disgrace with his late master. The present Emperor has not only assigned to him the splendid hotel of the Staff of the Marine for a residence, but has kept him as much as possible near him and in his confidence, and has sent him on an important mission to Finland, with particular reference to Sveaborg.—*Letter from Berlin, Jan. 5.*

COUNT NESSELSRODE'S CIRCULAR.—The Austrian public is so profoundly ignorant of what has been doing during the last few weeks in the Eastern question that it believes Count Nesselrode's Circular of the 22nd of December to be a reply to some project of peace that has recently emanated from the Allied Powers. It is well known, however, that the circular of the Russian Chancellor of State is merely a repetition of terms of peace some three weeks since proposed by Prince Gortschakoff to Count Buel. The Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs declined to discuss the merits of Russian proposition with Prince Gortschakoff, but he lost no time in communicating what had passed between himself and the Russian diplomatist to the representatives of the Western Powers. As for the conditions proposed by Russia, they were brought forward by Prince Gortschakoff in the 12th Conference, which was held in this city on the 21st of April, 1855. They were then positively rejected by Aali Pacha, Lord John Russell, and M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and it is, therefore, but natural that they will not now be taken into consideration. It may be observed that the pertinacity displayed by Russia excites a mixed feeling of astonishment and indignation in the most influential Austrian circles. People are impatient to learn what progress Count Esterhazy is making in St. Petersburg, but some days must elapse before any positive information can be given on the subject. Up to the present moment the very best-informed persons in this city are in total ignorance of the intentions of the Russian Government; but it is believed Count Esterhazy will be able to give some little insight into them in the course of next week. The definitive reply of Russia is not, however, likely to be given until twenty-one days from the 27th of December, on which day the Austrian propositions were communicated to Count Nesselrode.—*Letter from Vienna, Jan. 3.*

FRENCH BOUNTIES ON RE-ENLISTMENT.—The *Moniteur* of the 4th inst. publishes a decree of the Minister of War, fixing the conditions of re-enlistment of such men as have been released from the service. Re-enlistment for seven years will entitle the party to the sum of 2300*fr.* 700*fr.* to be paid at the time of re-enlistment, 300*fr.* either at that time or during the period of service, and the remaining 1900*fr.* on his definitive liberation from the service. Re-enlistment for less than seven years will give a right to a sum of 230*fr.* for every year's service, 100*fr.* to be paid on the day of re-enlistment, 30*fr.* either at the same period or during the time of service, and 100*fr.* at the period of liberation. Voluntary engagements of those altogether liberated from the service within less than a year will be entitled to the same advantages as above specified. The Minister has addressed a circular to the military and civil authorities containing the above regulations, and ordering them to be posted up in the different barracks and in all the communes throughout the country.

ENCOUNTER WITH A WILD BOAR.—A private gamekeeper at Neale-la-Reposée (Marne) named Gauthier had a narrow escape a few days ago from being killed by a wild boar. The animal had been wounded on the previous day and had taken refuge in a small copse into which Gauthier went in search of it. The barking of his dog soon showed him the spot where the animal lay concealed, and he fired at it as it lay crouched among the brambles and wounded it in the thigh. Furious at the wound, the boar rushed on the man and knocked him down by a severe wound in the thigh with its tusks. The boar's attention was then directed to Gauthier's game-bag, which it began to tear open. This gave the keeper a little time to recover his presence of mind, and turning suddenly round he seized the animal, which was but weak on its legs in consequence of the wound, and overturned it; and while he was holding it down, some person came up and dispatched it.

ANOTHER STORM IN THE BLACK SEA.—Accounts have been received from Constantinople of another fearful hurricane having visited the Black Sea on the 19th of last month; and it is reported that fifty or sixty ships foundered during the height of the storm, off the mouth of the Sulina. Lloyd's agent at Galatz states that in twenty-three instances the vessels went down with all hands, as also fifty-two lighters, which were off the coast at the time. Not a soul belonging to them is supposed to have escaped. Most of the vessels were laden with corn. Three ships (one from England, called the *Caledonia*) were driven ashore near the harbour of Sebastopol, and were wrecked, the crew of the *Caledonia* perishing in the vessel. The *Talavera*, an English transport ship, No. 98 (belonging to Mr. Duncan Dunbar, at Limehouse), is among other vessels reported to be lost on the east coast of Marmora; and her Majesty's ship *Oberon* had been dispatched from Constantinople to the spot to render assistance.

THE ENGLISH MISSION IN PERSIA.—The differences between the British mission in Persia and the Persian Government, which induced the British Minister to strike his flag, arose in the following manner:—The British mission has two kinds of native employes, called Mirzas, one for all written communications and the reduction of notes and memoranda; the other for verbal transactions, messages, &c. Last year one of these latter died, and it became necessary to fill up his place. A man named Mirza Hashi was among the competitors. He is married to one of the numerous daughters of the 150 sons of Shah Feth Ali, and his wife enjoys on that account a pension of 6000 piasters. This lady was rather strong-minded for a Persian woman, and had sown intrigues among the European part of the community, in consequence of which the couple had reason to fear the loss of their pension. Under these circumstances, the husband thought it advisable to become one of the Mirzas of the British mission, which position offered likewise considerably superior emoluments to the irregularly paid 6000 piasters of his wife. He was appointed and presented to the Grand Vizier. This latter objected to have dealings with a man who had been employed in various services, even of a menial character in the palace, and who was, besides, from his unscrupulousness, a dangerous person to intrust with any communications between the Persian Government and the British mission. In consequence, however, of subsequent representations, the British mission did not insist. Some time after, the man and his wife, protesting that their lives were endangered, took advantage of the right of asylum which all European missions in the East so conveniently afford, and took refuge in the palace of the mission. The thing was referred to England, and the Government sent out instructions to get an assurance from the Persian Government that the man should not be injured. The Persian Government was quite ready to give an assurance of this kind privately to the mission, and promised to leave the man quiet; but would not give any written declaration, as it was afraid that the man would use it for his own purposes, which was not at all improbable from his character. Then the English Minister, carrying out literally his instructions, struck his flag.—*Letter from Constantinople.*

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STAYS SUPERSEDED.—Stiff Stays destroy natural grace, produce deformity, and implant disease. MARTIN'S ELASTIC BODICE is without whalebone or lacing, furnishing a good support, and adjusted in one minute. Can be sent by post, only from E. and E. H. MARTIN, 81, Wells-street, Oxford-street (late 504, Oxford-street). At the Great Exhibitions of London and Paris.—Bells of every description.—A Prospectus, &c., sent free.

WHITELOCK'S SHIRTS, Six for 39s. excel-ling in quality, fit, and style; coloured Shirts, to order, 4s. 6d. each; best flannel Shirts, all patterns, 12s. 6d. To be had only of Whitelock and Son, 165, Strand, opposite the church, near Somerset-house. Patterns, directions for measure, &c., sent by post.

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BERDOE'S OVER-COATS and CAPES; also, LADIES' CAPES. One of the Largest Stocks in London. First-class Garments, on best terms, and thoroughly Waterproof, without extra charges.—96, New Bond-street, and 69, Cornhill.

BOYS' CLOTHES.—Messrs. WALLIS and BARKER, of 288, and 289, High Holborn, four doors east of Great Turnstile, keep the largest assortment of Boys' Clothing in London, consisting of
Tunic Suits,
Hussar Suits,
Jacket Suits,
Overcoats,
Capes in every variety,
Trowsers, &c.,
In the most fashionable styles and materials.

BY Royal Letters Patent. The MONO-MOROS, or SINGLE-PIECE COAT, is the greatest Novelty ever offered. Being cut in one undetached piece of cloth, and having no exposed seams, is the only Woollen Overcoat that can be rendered perfectly Waterproof. May be had only of the Patentee, W. KNIGHT, 11, Edward-street, Portman-square.

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INFANTS' NEW FEEDING-BOTTLES.—From the LANCET.—"We have seldom seen anything so beautiful as the Feeding-bottles introduced by Mr. ELAM."—The Lancet, 18th October 1855. Whether for weaning, rearing by hand, or occasional feeding, they are quite unrivalled. 7s. 6d. each; by post 8s. extra.

CAPPER, SON, and MOON, 164, REGENT-STREET, LONDON.
BASSINETTES, 30s. to 300s.; BABY LINEN.
Also Children's Millinery, Mantles, Dresses, Overcoats, and Ladies' Under-clothing.
Books giving descriptions and prices sent gratis.

VALUABLE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.—Free by post, for 60 stamps, a GOLD PEN, warranted for twelve months from deterioration except by violence, in a real silver Pocket-holder.—H. T. COOKE and SON, Stationers, Warwick.

GREEN PEAS, Julianne for Soups, and all kinds of Vegetables, to be had through all respectable Grocers and Italian Warehouse-men. Wholesale at CHOLLET and CO.'s Depot, 81, Bishopsgate-street Within.

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CABINET, UPHOLSTERY, EASY-CHAIR, and CARPET MANUFACTORY, 28, 32, 34, Berners-street, Middlesex Hospital.—B. FLICKS solicits a visit to this large range of Warehouses which are completely stocked with the most modern and elegant Furniture, adapted for every description of room, and marked at prices much below the usual charges for inferior articles. Estimates and designs sent to any part of the kingdom, and all packing charges at cost price.—28, 32, and 34, Berners-street, Middlesex Hospital. Established 1820.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH, USED IN THE ROYAL LAUNDRY. Gentlemen should see that their Linens are dressed with this Starch; they will be delighted with its elasticity and beautiful finish. It has been pronounced by her MAJESTY'S LAUNDRESS to BE THE FINEST STARCH SHE EVER USED. WOTHERSPOON and CO., London and Glasgow.

GARDNER'S LAMPS are the BEST MODERATOR LAMPS. 5s. 6d., 10s. 6d., and 14s. 6d. each. 451 and 63, STRAND, CHANCERY-CROSS. By appointment to her Majesty. Established 104 years.

MODERATOR LAMPS.—EVANS, SON, and CO. respectfully invite their Friends and the Public to an inspection of the extensive and beautiful STOCK of these much-admired LAMPS, that has just received from Paris, embracing all recent improvements, in bronze, or mould, crystal, alabaster, and porcelain, of various elegant designs, suitable for the cottage or mansion. Show-rooms, 33, KING WILLIAM-STREET, London-bridge.

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LAMPES à MODERATEUR, from 6s. to 15s. 6d.—The demand for these lamps having become general, WILLIAM R. BURTON has collected from the different makers here and in France a variety that defies competition. As many imported from France were found to be inferior in the works, William R. Burton sent expressly to Paris to select only from the best makers, and he can now guarantee each lamp he sells as perfect in all its parts.

Bronze lamps, full size . . . 10s. 0d. to 20s. 0d.
Porcelain, plain and ornamental . . . 15s. 0d. to 25s. 0d.
Crystal, richly cut .



THE "MAISON VERTE," SEBASTOPOL.—SKETCHED BY E. A. GOODALL.

THE "MAISON VERTE," SEBASTOPOL.

THE subject of this Engraving was a favourite target for the long ranges. It was not hit quite so often as those who aimed at it desired, but it has been mauled quite enough in all conscience to satisfy any reasonable artilleryman. It certainly was not the house one who had any regard for a whole skin would have selected for a lodging. Marks of shot are plentiful enough in and around it. One shot, which has left no mark that can be observed, has half turned round the topmost stone of the centre pinnacle of the south front; or, could it have been the wind of the shot only—an agent of mischief which forms an article of belief with old soldiers, and is gravely discussed in treatises on military surgery? This house was once devoted to the purposes of education. It was, in fact, a school for young ladies, and, no doubt, a highly-respectable "establishment," if one may judge from the extent of a range of green covered sheds within the railing and walls of the premises. Many a gallant fellow, who will never see Sebastopol again, will be glad to know what the Maison Verte

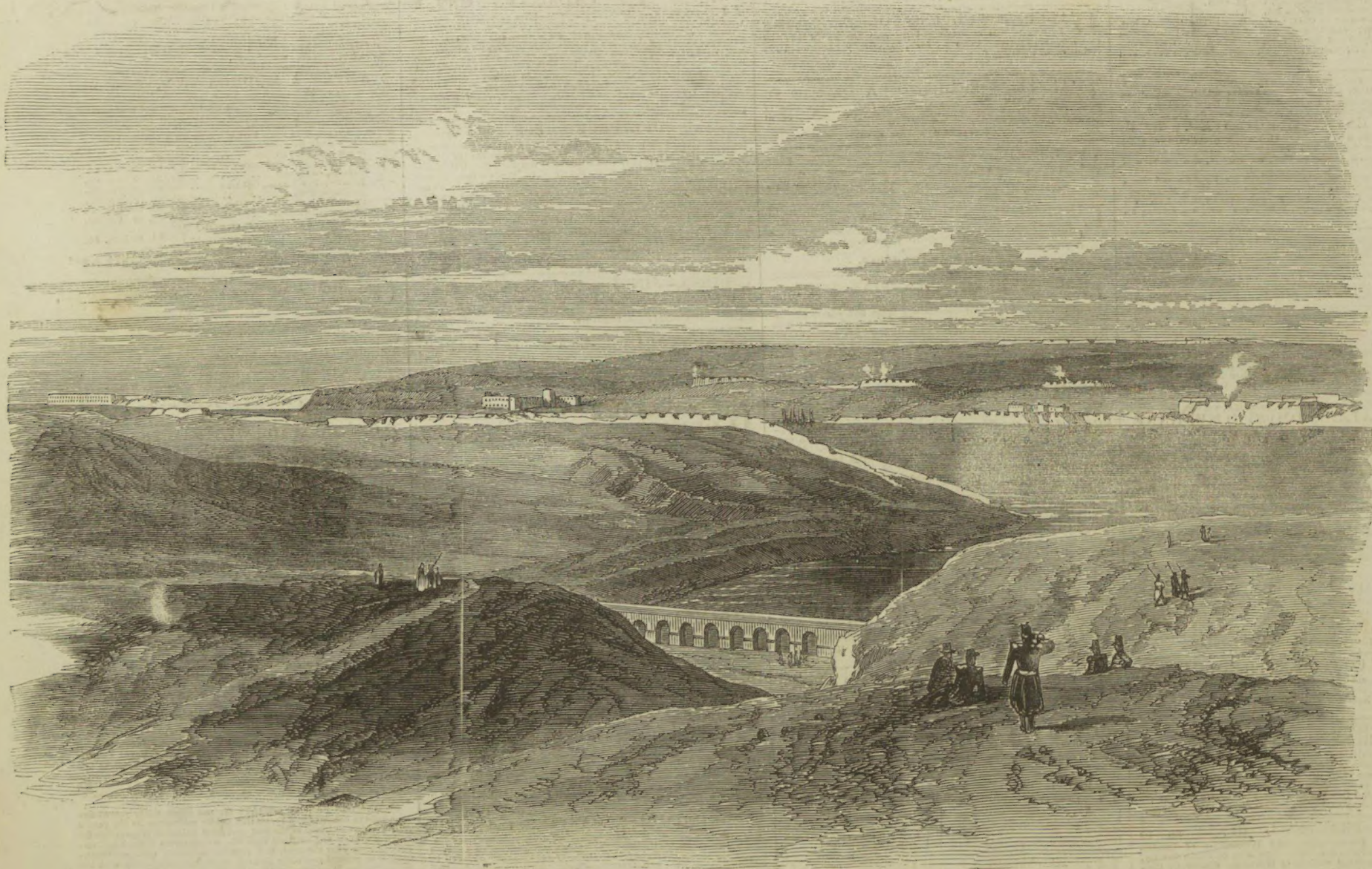
looks like on nearer acquaintance. Here it is, then; and we hope that its portrait as it now is—or was, at least, on the 8th of November, 1855—will interest the reader as much as the inspection of the original did the artist.

THE NORTH SIDE OF SEBASTOPOL.

THE position of the Russians on the north side of the harbour of Sebastopol, of which we give a Sketch this week, has remained without any alteration for the last few weeks. The rumour which was current a fortnight ago, regarding their intention to move northward seems to have been without foundation. According to the latest accounts the forts on the north side continue to fire, but the Allies do not deign to reply to them. The new French batteries are completed, and when the day arrives to bring their guns into play the forts on the north will, it is expected, be soon reduced to silence. A letter from Kamlesch, of the 5th instant, in the *Gazette du Midi*, says:—

I can announce to you a fact of considerable importance—the docks of Sebastopol are to be blown up on the 9th. These docks were amongst the most remarkable maritime constructions not only of Russia, but of the whole world. An idea of the expense they occasioned may be formed from the fact that their sides are formed of square blocks, of which each side measures about five feet. Miners have for some time been engaged in sinking shafts to the bottom of the lowest foundations; these shafts were recently finished; and preparations for the blowing up were then made. The destruction of these great works will be the signal for a war without mercy. "It seems to me," said a General, "that, in blowing up the docks, we shall blow up the headquarters of negotiations." Locomotives have begun to run on the Balaklava Railway, and excite the admiration of the Turks. The first brought into use has been named the "Alliance," in honour of the Allied Powers.

The report gains confirmation day by day, that, as far as regards the Crimea, the Allies will be content to fortify and hold the points already in their possession, and that the great bulk of the French, if not of the English army, will be removed elsewhere.



SEBASTOPOL.—NORTH SIDE.—SKETCHED BY J. A. CROWE.